

**Pacific Southwest District of
the Church of the Brethren**

Business Book

Be the hands & feet of Jesus.



Micah 6:8 Do justice, love mercy
and walk humbly with God.

60TH Annual District Conference

November 10-11, 2023

Business on Saturday, November 11

An In-Person & Virtual Conference
Held using internet formats like Zoom,
and meetings at the University of La Verne, La Verne, CA
www.pswdcob.org/distconf

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Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren
2023 Annual Meeting — November 10-11, 2023
A Conference, held using internet formats like Zoom,
and meetings at the University of La Verne, La Verne, CA.

Welcome to the 2023 Pacific Southwest District Conference

Welcome . . .

As we gather in person and virtually to celebrate another year in the life of the Church, let us give thanks that we can be here in this beautiful space: The University of La Verne, a school which attests to the long-lasting presence of the Church of the Brethren in this corner of the nation. This university is the result of many years of hard work and dedication on the part of our forefathers and mothers. It has changed names and grown in many ways since its founding in 1891.

Our churches were founded when much of this region was farm land and California remains a great agricultural giant. We have had to adapt our institutions to the vagaries of urbanization. We have lost people and we have gained people. We have attracted the marginalized and the struggling souls who have tested our resilience. We have adopted new ways and learned to embrace change.

We come together representing a wide-variety of local churches. We are heritage Brethren as well as speakers of other languages who bring new and fresh cultural perspectives to the table. We are spirited followers of Jesus inspired by our leaders, both lay and clerical. We are here to learn and to be nurtured in the wisdom of our brothers and sisters. We embrace this opportunity to expand our horizons and see through the maze of our complicated lives.

You are invited to mingle and insert yourselves in workshops which will meet your needs. Two joyous worship services are planned and will fill your souls with music, inspiration and wisdom.

There is work to be done but also fellowship to be enjoyed. Don't miss the ice cream social and drop by the hospitality spread offered as the activities wind down. Bienvenidos!

Judy Stout, Moderator

Judy Stout, 2023 PSWD Moderator

Moderator@pswdcob.org

2023 Pacific Southwest District Conference — Business Meeting Agenda

Saturday, November 11 — 1:45 to 4:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer
2. Roll call and establishing of a quorum
3. Approval of 2023 Agenda and 2022 Minutes (p.[49](#))
 - A. Name a Committee to review the 2023 minutes
4. Business Items
 - A. Election of leadership (pp.[17-17](#) & pp.[53-57](#))
 - B. 2024 PSWD Operating Budget & Church Planting Budget Proposals (pp.[58-61](#))
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 - A. Church of the Brethren, Inc. (pp.[40-48](#))
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 - C. District Policy Board (pp.[19-24](#))
 - D. District Program Committee (p.[16](#))
 - E. Standing Committee Delegate (p.[15](#))
 - F. District Executive Minister (pp.[12-14](#))
6. Consecration of Moderator and other 2024 District Leadership
7. Adjournment

Friday, November 10

Ministers & Leaders Professional Growth Event

-9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (registration required)

Jesus taught them many things by stories... led by Jonathan Hunter

Dinner in *The Spot*, ULV Campus Café -5:00 to 6:30 p.m. (ticket purchase required)

Worship Service - 6:45 to 8:15 p.m.

6:45 Gathering in Song, Worship begins at 7:00 p.m.

Jonathan Hunter preaching, Shawn Kirchner music leadership

Ice Cream Social - 8:15 p.m.

Saturday, November 11

Gathering and Worship - 8:45 to 10:00 a.m.

8:45 Gathering in song, Worship begins at 9:00 a.m.

Jeremy Ashworth preaching, musical leadership from Circle of Peace

Workshop Sessions #1 - 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. (see sessions below)

Lunch featuring a Sandwich Buffet - 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (ticket purchase required)

Workshop Sessions #2 - 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. (see sessions on next page)

Conference Business Session with consecration of moderator - 1:45 to 4:30 p.m.

Social Hour with appetizers - end of business for an hour (ticket purchase required)

Workshop Sessions #1 - Saturday, November 11 - 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Description, (presenter)

- (1) **The Value and Joy of Disaster Service: Brethren Disaster Ministry & Child Care** —An overview of the process for responding to disasters including training, time lines, covering costs, and working with a team. (by Mary Kay Ogden & Dot Hess (La Verne))
- (2) **Casting our Internets as we fish for people** — Technology is ever-changing and often churches are struggling to figure it out – should we use the Internet and social networking as part of our mission and if so, how can we do that successfully? Come to this seminar to hear what two churches in the District have done to increase their presence online. As we share our stories, we'll invite you think about some easy and tangible steps to bring back to your own communities. There will be time for discussion and Q&A afterwards. (by Jon Chubb (Papago Buttes) & Juan Pablo Plaza (Conexión Pasadena))
- (3) **Do Justice Today: An Exploration of Micah 6:8** — We will explore the biblical context of Micah 6:8 and then spend time imagining what its call looks like in our communities today. (by Amanda Bennett (La Verne))
- (4) **Organizing Against Gun Violence** — Learn about the newly formed Gun Violence Prevention Action Team. Explore ways that you and your congregation can help bring about meaningful

changes to save lives. Resources will be provided. (by Gail Hiesel (La Verne), Linda Himes (La Verne), & Linda Williams San Diego))

- (5) **DC Business & Conversation with District Leaders** – An opportunity to talk about the conference business items and other questions you might have for District Leadership. (by Erik Brummett (Live Oak), Jonas Funderburk (Glendale), & Russ Matteson (District Executive)).

Workshop Sessions #2 - Saturday, November 11 - 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Description, (presenter)

- (6) **The wisdom of Jesus according to James / La sabiduría de Jesús de acuerdo a Santiago**
This interactive bilingual Spanish English bible study on James is designed to develop a unique understanding coming from the wisdom of a small group experience. This is a chance to delve into James and discover another treasure. The goal of our time together is for each of us to find something new from James to share with others in a way that gives life to the teachings of Jesus! We hope you will like this participatory and dynamic session. / Este estudio del libro de Santiago es una forma interactiva, bilingüe para que el sabio aporte de cada persona en grupos pequeños, promueva un mejor entendimiento de esta carta de Santiago. Esta es una muy buena oportunidad de profundizar en la enseñanza de Santiago para encontrar otro Tesoro. El objetivo de nuestro tiempo conjunto es para que cada una/uno de nosotros encuentre algo nuevo para compartir con otras personas, de forma en que le trae vida a las enseñanzas de Jesús. Esperamos que les gusta esta sesión tan dinámica y con mucho de su participación. (by Carrie & Alfredo Cesar, Gloria Diaz (San Diego))
- (7) **Introducing Dr. Pardis Mahdavi New ULV President**— As the University of La Verne enters the 2023-2024 academic year, it does so under the leadership of Dr. Pardis Mahdavi. President Mahdavi is the 19th president for the University and its first woman of color and president of color. She brings a rich history of innovation and this session will highlight some of the forward initiatives on which the university is embarking and opportunities to engage in our alumni and Brethren communities. (by Dr. Pardis Mahdavi, President and Dr. Eric Bishop, Interim Vice President of Enrollment Management)
- (8) **Loving God with Your WHOLE Self!** — We are told to love God with, heart, mind and soul – our WHOLE selves! But for many the body connection has been lost. In this workshop we will explore the practice of noticing and nurturing our own body's wisdom in order to discover how an embodied spirituality adds to our faith experience. (by Dawna Welch (La Verne))
- (9) **Standing with People of Color** — Part of the Annual Conference study/action process, this time will be filled with conversation and working towards how PSWD might lean into this work in the years to come. – (by Russ Matteson & others)
- (10) **Conversation with the General Secretary (David Steele)** — The General Secretary will provide updates regarding the Mission and Ministry Board and Staff's work and ministry related to their strategic plan, and some general updates on our life together in the Church of the Brethren. – (by David Steele)

Be the Hands and Feet of Jesus / Ser las manos y los pies de Jesús

Micah 6:8 / Miqueas 6:8

Let us consider how we "do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God." (Micah 6:8), the theme of this year's conference. We read, study and ponder this as individuals, as church families and as our larger district-wide community. At the conference we will have the opportunity to worship and pray together as well as meet in workshops to explore various aspects of this "walk with God". We also have business to conduct as we honor our responsibilities to manage the human, physical and spiritual resources of our regional church family.

We practice what we preach "being the hands and feet of Jesus". Some of this work is messy. It may involve getting down and dirty, walking with those sleeping rough, handing a cup of cold water to our thirsty neighbor, getting dirty rebuilding a damaged house, playing with a traumatized child, even sitting through long but necessary meetings on zoom. Might our "work" include speaking more slowly so someone can understand our words in a strange-sounding tongue, or waiting for the interpreter to do their job, lending a hand to someone unfamiliar with our "Brethren" ways?

One of the first steps of doing justice is learning where and how injustice is happening. Indeed, looking at how others are approaching these issues and being creative with solutions is what we can do better together. Participating in conference is a lively way to walk humbly with God. Coming in person is even more rewarding in that old time fellowship kind of way.

I look forward with great anticipation to being together with you all in November in La Verne. Hasta luego! Dios sea contigo!

Judy Stout, Moderator
Judy Stout, 2023 PSWD Moderator
Moderator@pswdcob.org

Be the hands & feet of Jesus.



Micah 6:8 Do justice, love mercy
and walk humbly with God.

Delegates' Dedication

November 11, 2023

Moderator: We gather here today in person and online to conduct the business of the Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren. We are gathered to be the body of Christ.

Delegates: **We are here today representing the Church of the Brethren in Arizona, California, and Nevada. We are the body of Christ. The hands and feet, the eyes and ears, the heart and lungs - all parts of the whole.**

Moderator: Together we are a body that worships, a body that ministers, a body that works, a body that rejoices in the wonder of serving and loving God together

Delegates: **We commit ourselves to work together to deal effectively with the business before us as we seek to minister to a world that needs Jesus.**

Moderator: As the body of Christ, let us lift up each other. Let us listen to each other with the heart and mind of Jesus.

Delegates: **We will gladly listen to each other and support our Sisters and Brothers as we seek to continue the work of Jesus.**

Moderator and Delegates: **Let us dedicate this day to being the body of Christ as we work together doing the work of Jesus.**

Be the hands & feet of Jesus.



Micah 6:8 Do justice, love mercy
and walk humbly with God.

Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren – 2023

Officers of the District Conference

Moderator..... Judy Stout, San Diego
Moderator-Elect..... Paul Lovelace, Pomona Fellowship
Clerk..... Laura Miller, Papago Buttes
Board of Administration Chair (ex-officio)..... Erik Brummett, Live Oak
District Executive Minister (ex-officio)..... Russ Matteson

Note for the Delegates

The District Conference is a mass meeting to which delegates and other interested persons from the member congregations come in business sessions and for purposes of worship, education and fellowship. The District Conference projects the program of the District, and approves new programs, constitutional changes and budget. Through its delegates, it interprets and promotes the decisions of the District Conference to the local congregations.

Participation of Non-delegates

Non-delegates are urged to attend District Conference, including the business meeting. Non-delegates may discuss the business and make motions; voting is restricted to the delegates and officers. Wide participation at the business session adds inspiration and encouragement to the moderator, delegates, Board of Administration and staff. Pacific Southwest District has been noted for excellent attendance at the business session.

What May Be Done with Queries

- (1) A query may be accepted and passed on to Annual Conference.
- (2) A query may be sent back to the originating church or District Board, which means one of several things: *not important to the larger church, Annual Conference has already answered it, not a proper query, etc.*
- (3) A query **may not** be changed by amendment.
- (4) A query may be added to, but care must be taken not to change the intent of the query. One way to add is to attach a similar query to the one being considered.

Rules of Order on District Conference Business

- (1) The moderator conducts business according to Robert's Rules of order, which will be the standard for any point not covered in the Constitution and Bylaws.
- (2) The moderator appoints tellers and timekeeper.
- (3) Nominations from the floor must have the prior consent of the nominee (*see next page, bottom section*).
- (4) Length and number of speeches allowed are determined by the District Conference officers.
- (5) The election of officers is by ballot with a plurality vote, except the moderator-elect and the standing committee delegate(s), who are elected by a majority vote.
- (6) A quorum consists of fifty percent of the total elected delegates representing fifty percent of the churches of the District.

Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren

Parliamentary Procedure at a Glance

(Based on Robert's Rules of Order Revised
And Rules Governing Annual Conference)

8. The Five Essential Steps Through Which a Motion Passes

- A. Presentation of the motion:
“I move that _____.”
- B. Seconding the motion:
“I second the motion,” or “I second it.”
- C. A written copy of the motion shall be given to the conference clerk.
Stating the question (by the moderator) and discussion of it:
“It has been moved and seconded that _____.”
- D. Putting the question to a vote:
“Are you ready for the question? All of those in favor of the motion which is _____
_____. say ‘Aye.’ Opposed, ‘No.’”
- E. Announcing the result of the vote:
“The motion is carried (lost) and you have voted to (not to) _____.”

9. Motions, Who Makes Them and How

- A. All attendees of the District Conference have the privilege of moving and discussing the business of the Conference.
- B. To make a motion, it is necessary to “obtain the floor” – that is, to rise after the floor has been yielded and address the presiding officer by his/her official title (Brother/Sister Moderator). Give your name and the name of the congregation you represent as soon as you are recognized by the moderator after addressing him/her.
- C. A motion is seconded without obtaining the floor or rising.

10. Some Rules of Debate

- A. All remarks must be addressed to the chair.
- B. All remarks must pertain to the immediately pending question before the District Conference.
- C. All remarks must be of an impersonal nature.
- D. Length and number of speeches are determined by District Conference officers.

11. Nominations and Voting

- A. Nominations may be made from the floor. However, one must have the person's permission to present his/her name in nomination, have all the same written information provided by the other candidates to present to the conference clerk, and have copies of the ballot information to distribute to the delegates (*see page 18*).
- B. No member can be compelled to vote. Those not voting are not counted in deciding whether it is a majority, two-thirds, or unanimous. All blank ballots are ignored and, thus, not counted.
- C. Most votes are taken first by voice or by show of hands, except in case of motions requiring a two-thirds vote, when a rising vote is taken first.

12. Motions Classified and in Ascending Order of Precedence

- A. Privileged and Incidental Motions:** motions that take precedence over any pending question although not related to that question. Not debatable.
1. **ADJOURN or RECESS**
Object: to dismiss a meeting or to provide for an intermission – “I move that we adjourn (recess) while (until) _____.”
 2. **RAISE A QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE**
Object: to get the attention of the moderator at once, to ask a question, or to attend to some matter that cannot wait – “I rise to a question of privilege” (state your question).
 3. **POINT OF ORDER**
“I rise to a point of order” (state your point).
- B. Subsidiary Motions:** motions that are applied to other motions for the purpose of most appropriately disposing of them.
1. **LAY ON THE TABLE – TAKE FROM THE TABLE** (second, not debatable, not amendable, simple majority)
Object: to lay aside business in such a manner that its consideration may be removed later – “I move that this matter be laid on the table.”
 2. **PREVIOUS QUESTION** (second, not debatable, not amendable, two-thirds majority)
Object: to stop debate and order an immediate vote – “I call for (or move) the previous question.”
 3. **POSTPONE TO A SET TIME** (second, debatable, amendable, simple majority).
 4. **COMMIT, REFER, or RE-COMMIT** (second, debatable, amendable, simple majority),
Object: to place the business in the hands of a few for later reporting to the Conference (for major changes) – “I move that this matter be referred to a committee of ____ to be named _____ with instruction.”
 5. **AMEND** (second, debatable, amendable, simple majority).
 - a. “I move to amend the motion by striking out _____.”
 - b. “I move to amend the motion by inserting _____ between _____ and _____.”
 - c. “I move to amend the motion by adding _____ between _____ and _____.”
 - d. “I move to amend the motion by striking out _____ and inserting _____.”
 - e. “I move to amend by striking out _____ and substituting this (read or state the substitution).”
 6. **POSTPONE INDEFINITELY** (second, debatable, and amendable, simple majority).
Object: to kill a motion – “I move to postpone this matter indefinitely.”
- C. Principal Motion:** a motion made to bring before the Conference, for its consideration, any particular subject.
- D. Main Motion:** (second, debatable, amendable, simple majority).
Object: to introduce business for consideration –
- a. “I move that _____.”
 - b. “I move the adoption (acceptance, approval) of this report.”

District Executive Minister's Report

Russ Matteson

I've been thinking a lot about the District's Unity Statement over the past several months. The statement is grounded in the call to love one another found in John 13:34-35. It invites us each and all to humble ourselves, to focus on Jesus, to find our unity in Christ. This is a challenging thing to do in a time and culture where pride and division are the prevailing choices. The choice to divide and separate seems to many to be the right or easy way forward. I am challenged that the way of Jesus is the way of love and reconciliation, and that is not an easy thing.

I will share with you the strain in many districts over the withdrawal of churches from the denomination. The process involved is time and energy consuming for the District Executive and for members of the District Board. It is never a congenial process. It is seldom a place of love and reconciliation. I invite you to hold the Church of the Brethren and those places where withdrawal is a present reality in your prayers.

And I invite us to remember what we as a district committed to as the gathered church in 2007 when we unanimously approved the Unity Statement which is printed below. In the midst of the challenges and trials around us, may we focus not on our differences but with love for one another choose to focus on Jesus, together.

On this 300th anniversary of the founding of the Church of the Brethren, we remember the words of Jesus:

"Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples – when they see the love you have for each other." (John 13: 34, 35; The Message)

Recognizing we are a living peace church, and that God is constantly revealing, we commit to humble ourselves, and to engage in the tension of community necessary for new birth.

Not focusing on our differences, but in the spirit of love and acceptance, we choose to focus on Christ.

We purpose to remain open, as we listen to one another and to the Holy Spirit, working in love to mutually support and encourage our various ministries.

Sabbatical

Después muchas reuniones en enero, mi tiempo de sabático comenzó. Me fui por seis semanas de estudio en Puebla, México. Mi tiempo estaba lleno con clases, viviendo con una familia, y aprendiendo sobre la historia y la cultura de México y los pueblos indígenas. En seis semanas aprendí muchas nuevas palabras, muchas conjugaciones verbales, y cómo trabajar con pronombres. Aprendí mucho y tengo mucho más que aprender. Muchas gracias al distrito por este tiempo fuera. Muchas gracias a Erik Brummett, el presidente del equipo, y Beth Sollenberger, una ministra ejecutiva del distrito jubilada, por su trabajo mientras yo estaba en sabático. Estoy trabajando para practicar y usar lo que he aprendido. Este tiempo me ha ayudado ya que estamos en asociación con las iglesias de habla hispana que forman parte de este distrito.

Leadership Development Opportunities

As part of the Ministry & Improvement Fund a key area we are funding is for pastoral and leadership support. Support was provided to help five persons attend Annual Conference, and we had a few more pastors take advantage of Resiliency Grants to help them access coaching, counseling, or spiritual direction resources. I also want to lift up two resources that we offered congregations the opportunity to participate in that were covered by this fund:

Know to Grow - This is an opportunity for local churches to interact with local demographic and psychographic information with support and coaching from Jeff Glass. Jeff has shared reports and invited initial planning with 14 of our churches, and several churches have invited him for additional coaching and planning using the data provided. Unfortunately Percept, the information partner in this program, closed operations in February, but Jeff was able to pull at least preliminary reports for the areas around many of our congregations that had not yet asked for information. Jeff remains available to consult with congregations. The cost for using Jeff as a resource in this area is covered by the district.

New & Renew Conference - The district sent a group of 15 adults and 2 children from 6 congregations to this biennial Church of the Brethren gathering that focuses on resourcing

congregations that are new churches or committed to the work of renewal. With several keynote addresses, 20 workshop choices, four worship services, and time to fellowship, I believe this is one of the best events that the denomination offers. Our attendees came home with many ideas and connected to each other and partners across the church.

Pastoral/Congregational Transitions

Church of the Living Savior (McFarland, CA) - The church began hosting a new Spanish speaking congregation in mid-2022 and working to partner in ministry with this group. This ministry has chosen the name Iglesia del Salvador Viviente and has been recognized by the District as a new church project sponsored by the Living Savior congregation. Their leaders are in the process of being licensed and adding to the training they already have.

Circle of Peace (Peoria, AZ) - Ground breaking on their new worship center should happen in December of this year. The District Board has allocated an additional \$250,000 from the Growth from the Ashes Fund to the project. The District will also provide a loan of \$1.4 million for the project. Continue to hold them in prayer as they gather the funds and begin construction.

Cristiana Elohim (Las Vegas, NV) - As their current space rental situation continued to worsen, the District committed to partner with them to find new space to rent or buy that would allow them to operate without the challenges of space sharing. At the end of June we closed on a small property (originally a home, most recently a wedding chapel) in a residential area and near to where the pastor lives. Renovation work is underway to have a space that will hold up to 70 people for worship, classrooms, and an office. We hope that they will be able to use the space by the end of the year.

Glendora - Gilbert Romero is serving as the interim pastor. They have remodeled and updated their sanctuary space.

La Verne - The congregation is moving to a ministry team model and in late 2022 called Amanda Bennett to be one of the two members of the pastoral team.

They are still in a search process for the other team member.

Pomona Fellowship - They have now reached a long term agreement to rent space for office and worship from St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Pomona. They are using a preaching team from within the congregation, and Julie Wheeler serves as the congregational chaplain providing pastoral care support. They have formed a search committee and we will soon begin work on looking to call a pastor.

South Bay (Redondo Beach, CA) - This Spring the congregation and their partner church Journey Covenant called David Fasold to serve as their pastor. David is ordained in the Evangelical Free tradition and is Commissioned for term of service. The year ahead will bring conversation around them officially being one, dually affiliated church, which is how they operate at a practical level.

Other Assignments

I have been called to serve a second four year term on the Board of Eder Financial (formerly Brethren Benefit Trust). I represent members of the retirement plan and the District Executives on the board and serve on its Investment Committee. The work there does allow me to work to encourage how Eder can better serve the pastors of our district and the whole church. It has also helped our Stewards Commission as we work at how we manage the district's resources.

I also serve as the Treasurer of the Council of District Executives. Doing our books is not that difficult, but in this role I also serve as the District Executive representative on the Brethren Faith in Action Fund approval committee. It has been good to encourage and help several of our congregations to access the funds available through the denomination.

Pace e bene, Paz y bien, Peace and all good,

Russ Matteson

District Executive Minister

Deceased Ministers

Donald E. Fancher - 1/17/1934 – 1/29/2023
Roland Johnson - 11/09/1950 – 1/23/2023
Nelda Rhoades Clarke - 2/6/1951 – 6/27/2023
Barbara Ober - 7/1/1939 - 8/8/2023

Recognition of Ministers' Ordination Anniversaries

70 Years

James E. Daughtry

65 Years

Dr. Robert T. Neher
Galen R. Snell

60 Years

Glenn R. Stanford
Gene E. Wenger

40 Years

Catherine L. Laycook

30 Years

Erin Matteson
Russ Matteson
Nancey Murphy
Gilbert Romero
Zandra Wagoner

25 Years

Ernest M. Snyder

15 Years

Carrie Cesar

5 Years

Mercedes Zapata

**Representing 555 years
of service.**

TRIM Supervisor Report. Russ Matteson
See also Ministry Commission report on page [21](#).

At this time the district has no students formally enrolled in the TRIM program. We are using the courses offered in TRIM to provide Brethren content for Jonathan Chubb (Papago Buttes) as he works to have his ordination transferred to the Church of the Brethren, and for training of Sandra Millard (Bakersfield) who is licensed and doing some coursework to add to other work she comes into ministry with.

Russ Matteson, TRIM Coordinator
DE@pswdcob.org

MTC: Ministry Training Coordinator: SeBAH and EPMC Report. Gilbert Romero
See also Ministry Commission report on page [21](#).

In my role as MTC (Ministry Training Coordinator) for the district I find that through the many challenges, our current team makes everything work! I have a wonderful job centered on putting people that have been called to ministry in the Church of the Brethren into the training programs EPMC: Educación para Ministerio Compartido, and SeBAH: Seminario Biblico Anabautista Hispano. Then I follow-up with calls and emails encouraging the licensed ministers as they move through the training, meet weekly with them as they read the books for

some units, and keep them connected to resources.

I praise God for our EPMC licensees: Clara Rubalcalva and Maria Garcia from Cristo Genesis in LA, Pastor Luz Roman of the Las Vegas Iglesia Cristiana Elohim church plant, and Pastors Rigo & Margie Berumen of the Los Banos Centro Agape en Acción fellowship. They have all finished three units this year: Introducciona Los Estudios Biblicos with Marcos Inhauser, Preaching and Worship with Jaun Pablo Plaza, and Church History with Gilbert Romero. Pastor Florecita Merlos has finished SeBAH and is waiting for her Ordination. Príncipe de Paz Pastor Richard Zapata is battling cancer, so his SeBAH program is on pause. Thank you for letting me work with these students. Be blessed.

Gilbert Romero, MTC
MTC@pswdcob.org

Report of Standing Committee Delegate

The 2023 Standing Committee met in warm, humid, Cincinnati buzzing with Taylor Swift fans on July 1. After opening worship led by moderator Tim McElwee looking at a passage from Hebrews about “exasperating each other to love”, we shared with each other some of the things happening in our districts that required some creativity; challenges; and joys.

Many districts are grieving the loss of congregations as a result of tensions over the acceptance of and ministry with LGBTQIA persons.

What does it take to be church in post-pandemic era with in-person gatherings and hybrid worship and meetings?

What is required to be the best multi-cultural church or district? Multi-lingual?

How do we build relationships across large geographical landscapes?

In his report, moderator Tim highlighted brethren history looking at the balance of local autonomy versus a hierarchical model of governance. He noted previous annual conference statements that declared we will not enforce by decree. There continues to be stress in the denomination from the 1983 paper on Human Sexuality. Thus, he noted the 2008 invitation to agree as opposed to mandates to abide by polity. He called us to do more than name the tension, more than just repent. He said we have been outside the Promised Land for more than 40 years. He noted that brethren are a blend of congregational and Presbyterian styles of governance. It is time to disagree in love AND allow local members and congregations to reach their own conclusions in matters of faith and interpretation of scriptures as we have done previously on issues like flags in worship or members serving in the military.

On Sunday afternoon, Standing Committee took a learning tour of The Freedom Center of the Underground Railroad. We were encouraged to ponder our own reactions and responses to the displays, stories, and history – which included a section on the trafficking of humans that continues today. Then we spent time in the evening debriefing our experience – sobering, overwhelming, wondering where and how we yet participate in oppression today.

Standing Committee spent time for delegates to share and respond on various issues. “Reparation” is now a trigger word causing some to oppose that part of the Resolution to Lament the Doctrine of Discovery. How we present a time of confession and repentance with the larger conference body led to group wordsmithing of the liturgy around the call to confession and repentance. It took an extra meeting in the evening to attain support. We were test subjects for questions to be used by the committee responding to

“Breaking Down Barriers” and for the committee working on “Standing with People of Color.”

As Standing Committee reflected on our time together this year, there was positive affirmation that spending time together can make friends of those across the aisle theologically. Coming from diverse backgrounds and beliefs, we were able to build trust and respect for one another. We were able to disagree on the floor and then turn around and laugh together and even give a hug. We ended with a standing ovation for the work and spirit of moderator Tim.

During Annual Conference we welcomed international guests, including a few from Nigeria who had just celebrated 100 years of Church of the Brethren mission (Bethany president, Jeff Carter, witnessed the baptism of forty young people, preparing for ministry; membership is above 700,000 and growing in Ekklesiyar Yan’uwa a Nigeria). Brethren Volunteer Service celebrated 75 years of ministry and over 7,000 volunteers. We received an extended report from the World Council of Churches having just met this last year, with affirmation of the large contribution our small denomination makes to the WCC. Ten-minute Bible studies opened business sessions. Chad Brennan led a business educational event on “Working Toward Racial Justice.” Congregational videos of “Jesus in the Neighborhood” were scattered throughout the business.

Apart from trying to amend an amendment to an amendment to a motion, delegates approved Standing Committee’s recommendations on how to respond to new business items with some changes in wording. Eric Bishop was called to be part of the study committee on Calling Denominational Leadership, Gail Heisel was called to serve on the Annual Conference Program and Arrangements committee. Susan Boyer was approved to serve on the Bethany Theological Seminary Board of Trustees. Russ Matteson was approved to serve a second term of four years on the Eder Financial Board.

Worship services provided inspiration, challenge, and a unifying spirit. Children’s activities, choirs, exhibits and equipping sessions provided a full array of opportunities to be engaged and to connect. Thursday afternoon a group marched from the Duke Energy Convention Center to Cincinnati City Hall to bring attention to the desire to End Gun Violence – with local media coverage. Our conference ended on Saturday morning with the consecration of our new moderator, Madalyn Metzger and moderator-elect, Dava Hensley.

Moderator Madalyn introduced her theme for the coming year – “Welcome and Worthy” – based on Romans 16:2, inviting us to join her at next year’s Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan, July 3-

7, 2024. See the 2024 Annual Conference logo below.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your delegate to Annual Conference for the last six years. I continue to work with the Standing Committee Agency Covenant Writing Task Team.

Your Servant in Christ, Don Shankster

District Conference Program Committee Report

Committee Members:

Judy Stout, Moderator, Chair
Paul Lovelace, Moderator-Elect
Mary Kay Ogden Cady Laycook
Karen Pierson
Nohemi Flores (through 5/23)

Ex-Officio Members of the Committee:

District Executive Minister: Russ Matteson

Invited Guest:

Board Chair: Erik Brummett

Web-Registrar: Juliana Pitruzzello

Having experienced a well-received hybrid in-person / virtual conference at University of La Verne in 2022, we chose to return to the same venue in 2023. With the exceedingly hard-work of Joseph Guthrie from the Papago Buttes Church, we were able to become a hybrid in-person / live streaming Zoom conference. We plan to repeat this hybrid experience but also to truly encourage folks to come and participate in-person for some good old-fashioned

Brethren fellowship. As we planned for 2023, we reviewed the participants' evaluations from 2022. We decided to skip the workshops held during the week on Zoom and concentrate on two workshop slots on Saturday. In order to focus on our fellowship and learning from one another, we shifted the Saturday schedule to begin with worship, scheduling the business meeting for afternoon, after both workshops. A sub-committee has collected a diverse array of workshops, including several offered bilingually. Simultaneous translation is offered throughout the Friday workshop and the Saturday programming. We are very happy to welcome Jonathon Hunter and Jeremy Ashworth as worship speakers. Both will consider the conference theme of: "Being the Hands and Feet of Jesus" and the scripture: Micah 6:8 "Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God", "Practicar la justicia, amar la misericordia, y humillarte ante tu Dios", as the Spirit moves them.

Judy Stout, Moderator



Nominating Committee Report

Committee Members:

Paul Lovelace, Chair & Moderator-Elect
Marye Martinez
Joanne Wagoner
Brenda Dickson

Ex-Officio Members with vote:

Clerk, Laura Miller
Moderator, Judy Stout
Board Chair, Erik Brummett

Ex-Officio Member without vote:

District Executive Minister: Russ Matteson

One of the tasks for the Moderator-elect is to chair the Nominating Committee. I feel this is the most important function of the Moderator-elect. The persons who have been asked and agreed to be on the ballot represent the entire membership of the district. The better they reflect the cultural, economic, ethnic and theological diversity of the district the better the district can serve all of its congregations.

It was my privilege to work with a dedicated committee who made many phone calls to ask people to consider the call to participate in PSWD leadership. Russ Matteson's knowledge of potential leaders in every congregation was of utmost importance to our ability to provide this year's ballot. Please take the time to consider who are current or potential leaders in your congregation that could help shape the future of our district and submit their names on the attached form so we can continue to have a district board and other committees that truly represent the entire PSWD.

Please be in prayer for those on this year's ballot as well as the continuing members of the PSWD board and committees. I am looking forward to getting to know as well as serve with this group of leaders who have accepted the call to serve God through District leadership positions.

Your fellow servant
Paul Lovelace, Moderator-elect

Please consider these suggestions:

Dear Nominating Committee, for District Conference Ballot:	
I, _____, suggest that you consider:	
your name	your telephone
Name:	Email:
Church:	Tele:
Position: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Moderator Elect <input type="checkbox"/> District Board <input type="checkbox"/> Clerk </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Nominating Committee <input type="checkbox"/> District Board Youth / Young Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Standing Committee </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Program Committee </div> </div>	

Please consider these suggestions:

Dear Nominating Committee, for District Conference Ballot:	
I, _____, _____, suggest that you consider: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; font-size: small;"> your name your telephone </div>	
Name:	Email:
Church:	Tele:
Position: <input type="checkbox"/> Moderator Elect <input type="checkbox"/> Nominating Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Program Committee <input type="checkbox"/> District Board <input type="checkbox"/> District Board Youth / Young Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Clerk <input type="checkbox"/> Standing Committee	

Nominations from the Floor at District Conference

I, _____, am willing to allow my name to be placed on the year 20__ ballot as
a nominee for the following position of service: _____

Nominated by: 1 st _____ 2 nd _____
--

Personal Information: *(make enough copies to be distributed to the delegates, about 100)*

Name:	Age (optional):
Congregation:	
Vocation:	
Church Experience:	
Vision Statement:	
Address:	
Telephone:	
Email:	

PSWD Board of Administration

= second 3 year term, x = appointed to fill an unexpired term ending



**Thanks to all for your gift of service to the district.
Special thanks to those who have completed
their term of service as listed by year below.**

Policy Board:

Chair: Erik Brummett (Live Oak)
Vice-Chair: Jeremiah Irizarry (Empire)
Recording Secretary: Clerk: Laura Miller (Papago Buttes)
#2025 Erik Brummett (Live Oak)
#2023 David Flores Sr. (Cristo Sion) through May 2023
#2024 Jonas Funderburk (Glendale)
2024 Gail Heisel (La Verne)
2024 Bill Himes (La Verne)
#2025 Jeremiah Irizarry (Empire)
2024 Andrew Kauffman (Circle of Peace)Section Rep. AZ
#2024 Richard Keeling (Bakersfield)Section Rep. Cen.CA
2023 Jim Lefever (Glendale)Section Rep. S.CA-W
2023 Bob Morris (Glendora)
2025 Fernanda Navarette (Pasadena)
2023 Cooper Sampson (Modesto)Youth / Young Adult
#2023 Norma Sexton (Prince of Peace, Sacramento)Section Rep. N.CA
#2023 Julia Wheeler (La Verne)
#2023 Elena Yoder (Circle of Peace)Youth / Young Adult
2025 Ruth Rivera (Príncipe de Paz)Section Rep. S, CA E
Ex-Officio with vote
2023 Moderator: Judy Stout (San Diego)
2024 Moderator-Elect: Paul Lovelace (Pomona Fellowship)
2024 Clerk: Laura Miller (Papago Buttes)
2023Treasurer: Karin Heckman Nelson (La Verne)
Ex-Officio without vote
District Executive Minister: Russ Matteson
2023 Standing Committee Delegate: Don Shankster (Papago Buttes)
Invited to meetings without vote
Mission & Ministry Board members residing in PSWD (*By-Laws III.B.*)

Executive Board: (Members chosen each year by the Policy Board)

Board Chair: Erik Brummett (Live Oak)
Vice-Chair: Jeremiah Irizarry (Empire)
Ministry Chair: Norma Sexton (Prince of Peace)
Stewards Chair: Jonas Funderburk (Glendale)
Moderator: Judy Stout (San Diego)
Moderator-Elect: Paul Lovelace (Pomona Fellowship)
District Executive Minister (*ex-officio without vote*): Russ Matteson

Stewards Commission: (Members chosen each year by the Policy Board)

Stewards Chair: Jonas Funderburk (Glendale)
Vice Chair: Jeremiah Irizarry (Empire)
Secretary: Gail Heisel (La Verne)
Policy Board Member: Andrew Kauffman (Circle of Peace)
Policy Board Member: Bob Morris (Modesto)
ex-officio members: District Executive Minister, Moderator, Treasurer

Ministry Commission: (Members chosen each year by the Policy Board)

Ministry Chair: Norma Sexton (Prince of Peace)

Vice Chair: David Flores (Cristo Sion) through May 2023

Secretary: Julia Wheeler (La Verne)

Policy Board Member: Fernanda Navarrete (Pasadena)

Policy Board Member: Ruth Rivera (Príncipe de Paz)

ex-officio members: District Executive Minister; Moderator

Congregational Vitality Task Group: (Members chosen each year by the Policy Board)

Chair: Richard Keeling (Bakersfield)

Policy Board member: Bill Himes (La Verne)

Policy Board member: Jim Lefever (Glendale)

Policy Board member: Elena Yoder (Circle of Peace)

ex-officio members: District Executive Minister; Moderator

Invited guests: Board Chair

Board Appointments: Page [24](#)

Board of Administration Report

As both the district policy board and executive board began their work for 2023, one of our first major tasks was to plan and prepare for DE Russ Matteson's upcoming sabbatical. Russ had postponed his sabbatical twice, first due to COVID, and the second due to personal reasons. Both we and Russ wanted to make sure he was finally able to go on his sabbatical. Russ had planned how the work of the District office would be covered while on sabbatical, working closely with Kimberly to prepare her, reaching out to Joe Vecchio as someone who could help Kimberly, if needed, and answer any questions that might arise. Russ also discussed with me what role I would fill and how I would best be of service to the district while he was on sabbatical. I believe we all, working together, kept the district running smoothly.

One program the Executive Board continued working on was with Jeff Glass' "Know to Grow." I believe 6 congregations in total engaged with Jeff and his work. As one of those congregations that participated, I can say that the data Jeff collected for us was thorough, insightful, engaging, and surprising at certain points. While the project encountered a hiccup when the company Jeff worked with to accumulate the data suddenly closed, the data and information Jeff gathered for our congregations and district has proven invaluable and will continue to do so.

One project we began was with Greg Davidson Laszakovits, whom we contracted with to serve as a consultant on our continuing conversation surrounding the district youth ministry program. In 2022, we made some decisions regarding the program – to eliminate the district youth advisor position and place the district

youth ministry program on pause. As we conversed about the program, we recognized two things: we had lots of questions, and we were unable to carry out the work on our own. Thus, we contracted with Greg to interview congregations and members to learn what we as a district can provide congregations and how we can best support them, as it pertains to youth ministry. Greg met with the Executive Board on June 8 and shared with us what he heard in his interviews and based on what he heard, provided us with some recommendations. Greg sent the Policy Board a video report for our August meeting, as he was unable to join us via Zoom.

Throughout the year, we have been involved in a conversation pertaining to how we support Circle of Peace in Peoria, AZ with their building project. One action we have taken regarding this was the approval of the sale of a portion of the COP property.

We approved the purchase of a property in Las Vegas for Iglesia Cristiana Elohim to use as a worship space. Some remodeling needs to be done prior to them using the property as their church building.

Another conversation we have maintained is the process for Iglesia del Salvador Viviente, a Hispanic congregation worshipping in Church of the Living Savior's building in McFarland, to join the Church of the Brethren.

We appointed Carrie Cesar, pastor at San Diego, to the Ethics Committee, Ruth Rivera to replace Richard Zapata on the Policy Board, and approved Jody Romero for ordination and several Annual Conference support requests, as well Youth Fund requests and Tech Grant requests. We approved funding to support pastors and

District Board of Administration: continued

church leaders wanting to attend the New & Renew Conference in Elgin.

Thank you for your time and attention to this report. I hope and pray you find this District Conference

meaningful, fulfilling, and encouraging. May God be with you, Christ walk with you, and the Holy Spirit dwell within you. Amen.

Erik Brummett, Board Chair

Ministry Commission Report

Ministry Commission:

Norma Sexton, chair
David Flores, Vice-Chair (until 5/2023)
Julia Wheeler, Secretary
Fernanda Navarrete
Ruth Rivera

ex-officio: District Executive Minister; Moderator

It's been a privilege to serve again this year as chair of the Ministry Commission. A great big 'THANK YOU' is due to my commission members listed above. "The Ministry Commission gives counsel and guidance to all ministerial matters in the District" (from the District By-Laws, 2018 ed.) This encompasses the ordained, commissioned and licensed ministers in our District.

Our ministers have been utilizing the available Ministry Resiliency Grants offered for their use of a coach, spiritual director or therapist for their personal growth or spiritual health.



We returned to the format of the traditional Pastor-Spouse Retreat this year which was held at the beautiful Serra Retreat center in Malibu. Leadership was provided by Steve Cuss with the theme of Calm, Present and Aware. As Steve was only able to present for one day additional leadership was provided by Matt Real (Prince of Peace, Sacramento). An art-appreciation outing to the Getty Villa was included in the week as well as free time for rest and relaxation.

Praise God for the blessing of the abundance of ministers in training in our District! We celebrate Jody

Romero completing his studies and was recommended for ordination following his ordination interview by the Nurturing & Credentialing Committee (NACC). This sub-committee hopes to soon receive ordination paperwork for review & in-person interviews for several other licensed ministers that have completed their courses of study. We currently have 13 persons licensed and engaged in training programs. I appreciate the service of the persons on the Nurturing and Credentialing Committee (NACC) that perform the licensing and ordination interviews of applicants and annual reviews of licensed ministers. I want to recognize the service as chair of NACC by John Grindler Katonah and of Gilbert Romero as our Ministry Training Coordinator.

Norma Sexton, Chair
PSWD Ministry Commission

The Ministry Commission extends our gratitude to those appointed by our commission:

TRIM Supervisor Report. Russ Matteson
See District Executive Minister report on page [14](#).

SeBAH and EPMC Report. Gilbert Romero
See Ministry Training Coordinator report on page [14](#).

NACC: Nurturing & Credentialing Committee:
#2024 John Grindler Katonah, Chair
x2023 Becky Zapata
#2025 Susan Boyer
2026 Gary Pierson
2027 Deb Merrifield

Ex-Officio:
Ministry Commission Chair, District Moderator
Invited Guest: District Board Chair
ex-officio without vote on all district committees:
District Executive

NACC: Nurturing & Credentialing Committee

The NACC Committee is a sub committee of the District Ministry Commission. We provide guidance, support and encouragement in the licensing and ordination process for the Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren. Our committee of lay and ordained persons review and evaluate (following the District's mandate for licensing and ordination)

District Board of Administration: continued

progress as each individual advances toward ordination within the district's time period for completion.

In the past we met twice a year (fall and spring), however Covid required us to turn to zoom meetings last year and part of this year. Our meetings include interviews of those entering licensed ministry along with an ongoing annual review as they progress towards ordination. We particularly examine how they are proceeding with their educational requirements, pastoral functioning and cohort teams within their assigned congregational settings. At our Fall meeting we make recommendations and offer compassionate support, recognizing that many persons going through the licensing and ordination process carry multiple roles and life experiences in addition to being a student of ministry. Subsequently we review required written

ordination materials and hold a committee interview of those who completed training and are ready to seek a call to ministry as a commissioned or ordained minister.

Ultimately the District's Ministry Commission reviews our recommendations and decisions and makes the final determination for ordination. I have been privileged to participate in the Nurturing and Credentialing Committee' process of accompanying those committing themselves to the call to ministry in our district within the broader Church of the Brethren community. There is much determination, love for God, compassion for others and wisdom in the hearts and minds of those seeking ordination.

John Grindler Katonah, NACC Chair

Stewards Commission Report

Stewards Commission:

Jonas Funderburk, Chair
Jeremiah Irizarry, Vice-Chair
Gail Heisel, Secretary
Andrew Kauffman
Bob Morris

Ex-officio members: District Executive Minister,
Moderator, Treasurer

A Ministry & Improvement Fund Facility Repairs & Improvement request was approved for Restoration LA for fencing and landscaping. In 3 ½ years 15 churches and both district camps have requested \$314,000 in funds for repairs and improvements. There is still money available for those churches who have not yet accessed the funds or used all funds available to them.

This year the District purchased a building for use by Iglesia Cristiana Elohim in Las Vegas. The renovations for the building are still waiting for the approval of the city, and the church hopes to be using the space by December.

A 2024 proposed budget was approved which includes an increase in interest income due to the loan on the Las Vegas property and the new loan for Circle of Peace. The Commission also sent a "letter of stewardship" to the churches to encourage financial participation by each church in the district.

We spent significant time in conversation around how to support the Circle of Peace church which needs a building expansion to accommodate their growing congregation. The District has agreed to fund a loan of \$1.4 million to support the project. The entire project is estimated at \$5 million. The church has raised \$1 million and has pledges for another million. They raised another \$750,000 by selling a parcel of land that is not being used. To be ready for the loan when needed, the commission authorized moving our invested Tucson fund and the remaining amount needed to meet the Circle of Peace loan (from our general investment funds) to a shorter term fund which has less market volatility.

Jonas Funderburk, 2023 Stewards Chair

**Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren
Giving to the District by Congregations, Individuals and Groups
January 1 to December 31, 2022**

Church ID #	Name of Church	2022 Final	2023 YTD
32-010	Bakersfield	\$250	\$350
32-021	Centro Agape en Acción (Los Banos)	\$0	
32-025	Church of the Living Savior (McFarland)	\$1,000	\$1,000
32-028	Circle of Peace (Peoria, AZ)	\$4,200	\$3,150
32-270	Cornerstone Community (Reedley)	\$0	
32-040	Empire	\$1,000	\$300
32-070	Glendale	\$700	\$550
32-080	Glendora	\$0	
32-082	Iglesia Cristiana Elohim (Las Vegas)	\$0	
32-083	Iglesia de Cristo Genesis (Los Angeles)	\$150	\$465
32-037	Iglesia de Cristo Sion (Glendora)	\$0	
32-150	Imperial Heights (Los Angeles)	\$0	
32-090	Laton	\$0	
32-100	La Verne	\$5,000	\$3,333
32-120	Live Oak	\$0	\$750
32-190	Modesto	\$0	
32-197	Nueva Visión La Hermosa (Waterford)	\$0	
32-205	Papago Buttes (AZ)	\$400	\$400
32-035	Conexión Pasadena	\$0	
32-250	Pomona Fellowship	\$1,225	\$400
32-290	Prince of Peace (Sacramento)	\$200	
32-322	Príncipe de Paz (Santa Ana)	\$0	
32-280	Restoration Los Angeles	\$0	
32-300	San Diego First	\$1,000	
32-330	South Bay (Redondo Beach)	\$8,000	\$4,000
Sub-Total		\$23,125	\$14,698

	Individual Giving	\$1,235	\$1,000
	Marion Nine Trust	\$450	\$450
Sub-Total		\$1,685	\$1,450

GRAND TOTAL	\$24,810	\$16,148
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Thank you !

The Policy Board thanks those who accepted appointments and task group assignments during the past year. Most appointments are for one year, longer appointments list the concluding year. The Executive Board aims at making appointments between District Conference and the end of the year so that appointees can begin their work in January. Please give us suggestions for next year with the forms on pages [18-17](#) above.

Financial Appointments

Treasurer: (authorized signatory) Karin Heckman Nelson (La Verne)

Other Authorized Signatory: (yearly appointment) Mary Kay Ogden (La Verne), Dot Hess (La Verne)

Historical Committee

District Bylaws, Article III.K.2.

Not functioning at this time

Ecumenical Council Representatives

Arizona Faith Network: Doug Doser (Papago Buttes)

Judicatory Representative to all Ecumenical Councils: Russ Matteson, District Executive Minister

District Disaster Response Coordinator (BDM)

Network Co-Chairs: Lyndall & Lois Frantz (Empire)

Children's Disaster Services (CDS)

Network Co-Chairs: Kathy Davis (La Verne) & Mary Kay Ogden (La Verne)

Margaret Carl Trust Fund Advisory Committee

Applications for Bibles, tracts, etc. are available from the PSWD Office.

Administrator: Norma Morris, Trustee (Modesto)

Advisory Committee Members:

2023 Linda Davis (Living Savior, McFarland)

2025 Susan Price (Empire)

2024 Janelle Keeling (Bakersfield)

Ministerial Ethics Committee: (5-Year Term ending)

#2023 Karen Pierson (Living Savior)

#2024 Bob Morris (Glendora)

#2025 Eric Bishop (La Verne)

2026 Shawn Carothers (Circle of Peace)

2027 Carrie Cesar (San Diego)

Alternates for District Executive Minister:

#2024 Bob Morris (Glendora)

Ex-Officio: (with vote), *Ministry Chair*

Ex-Officio: (without vote), *District Executive Minister*

To: PSWD Delegates

From: Eric Bishop, Interim Vice President of Enrollment Management

Re: University of La Verne Report to PSWD Conference

This report represents highlights for the University of La Verne.

Dr. Pardis Mahdavi Installed

The University is excited to celebrate the selection and installment of Dr. Pardis Mahdavi as the 19th president of the University of La Verne. Dr. Mahdavi, who began on August 15, comes to the University from Montana State University. Her official Inauguration of was held on campus on October 13.

Mahdavi brings more than 20 years of scholarship, experience, and leadership in higher education. She most recently served as the provost and executive vice president at the University of Montana, a public flagship research university in Missoula.

As president, Mahdavi will lead the Southern California historic private, nonprofit institution with five colleges, several regional campuses, robust online offerings, and more than 89,000 alumni worldwide. She said the university's core values — lifelong learning, ethical reasoning, civic and community engagement, and diversity and inclusivity — along with its transformation over the years are closely aligned with her own.

"When I look at the trajectory of the University of La Verne, how it has adapted to all kinds of learners and how it really embodies the best tradition of access and excellence, and in preparing learners to really uphold democracy and engage in social transformation in the way that we would want a 21st century higher education institution to do, I am honored to join the community and excited about the work and collaborations ahead to serve our students," Mahdavi said.

Mahdavi previously held deanships at Arizona State University, the University of Denver and Pomona College, along with several leadership positions at Pomona College. She is a distinguished author, public speaker, and anthropologist. She has five single authored books, two edited volumes, and another single authored book to be released later this summer. Her research interests include gendered labor, human

trafficking, migration, human rights, and public health in the context of changing global and political structures.

Mahdavi holds a philosophy doctorate and master's degree in sociomedical sciences and anthropology, along with a Master of International Affairs in human rights from Columbia University. She has a bachelor's degree in diplomacy and world affairs from Occidental College.

Mahdavi grew up in Southern California and has three children.

She succeeds Dr. Devorah Lieberman, who retired this year after becoming the first female president of the University of La Verne in 2011.

Record Traditional Undergraduate Enrollment

The Fall 2023 Freshman class represented the largest freshmen class in the history of the University. The 741 freshmen are part of an overall student enrollment of more than 5,500 students at the University.

College of Health & Community Wellbeing

The University continues to develop its College of Health and Community Wellbeing. The college is scheduled to house many of the existing programs including the doctorate in clinical psychology, bachelor of science in nursing, masters in marriage and family therapy, and the masters in athletic training.

ULV Receives National Recognition

In September, the University of La Verne was named the top private university in California for social mobility and for the second consecutive year, sixth among all universities in the state, according to the *U.S. News & World Report's 2024 National University rankings*.

Social mobility reflects the improvement of socioeconomic status based on the enrollment and graduation of disadvantaged students. With embedded core values such as ethical reasoning, diversity, and inclusivity, the University of La Verne prides

itself in being able to ensure access to quality education and support for successful professional and social journeys.

The university has maintained its top 10 ranking for five years, establishing a lasting legacy of excellence.

“The University of La Verne’s consistent standing in these national rankings is indicative of the university’s deep commitment to the betterment of all of our students, especially those who are underrepresented and underserved,” President Pardis Mahdavi said. “As a nationally recognized Minority- and Hispanic-Serving Institution, we make sure all our students have access to supportive educational opportunities from the moment they arrive on campus, so when they graduate, they are able to give back to their communities as they once did for them.”

Top performers on the *U.S. News and World Report* social mobility ranking were measured by the extent schools graduated economically disadvantaged students who received federal Pell Grants, which means their total family incomes are usually less than \$50,000 per year. In the National Universities rankings only, this total also includes first generation student graduation rate data.

In the Best Value Schools category, the university placed 9th among the best in California. In the National Universities category, it ranked 11th among all private national universities in California and 24th among National Universities in California.

Additionally, the university has been ranked #33 in the nation within the 2024 Best U.S. College distinction in the *Wall Street Journal* & College Pulse rankings.

Out of 400 institutions, the university was scored as the fifth-highest ranking private and California university on the list. The university was recognized as one of 16 private California universities in the entire report and is among the top 15 schools for student experience and social mobility, according to results released this month.

This year’s ranking survey, created by *Wall Street Journal* in collaboration with College Pulse and Statista, focused overall scores on learning opportunities, preparations for careers, and learning facilities.

HILLCREST

2705 Mountain View Drive, La Verne, California 91750-4313
(909) 392-4000



MISSION STATEMENT

To serve and enrich the lives of older persons

VISION STATEMENT

To be the Premier Destination for Vibrant Community Living

CORE VALUES

Integrity

Respect

Service

Stewardship

Teamwork

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee: Dale Stanley, Chair; Christine Meek, Secretary; DeWayne McMullin, Treasurer; Jackie Doud, Vice Chair; Matthew Neeley, CEO; and, Jon Blickenstaff, Past Chair.

Directors: Thomas Allison, Kathy Duncan, Kitty Garvey, Dot Hess, Robert Johnston, Dan Lane, Donna Redman, Linda Saddlemire, Barbara Smythe, Susan Tenorio, Tina Wang, and Mike Welch

Ex-Officio with vote: Russ Matteson, District Executive Minister



The Gallery at Hillcrest: Embracing Ghosts Exhibit January 9—March 24, 2023

SALES & MARKETING NEWS

Hillcrest residents live days filled with accomplishments, fun-filled activities and community involvement. Listed are some of the highlights of this past year that have brought our mission and vision statements to life:

- The net entrance fees for the last fiscal year was \$7,490,479
- Hillcrest welcomed 43 new residents to the Hillcrest family.

PHILANTHROPY NEWS

- Total funds raised for the Good Samaritan & Benevolent Funds and Endowments in fiscal year ending June 30, 2023: **\$499,659.98**
- As of June 30, 2023, Woods Health Services Capital Campaign has raised approximately **\$4.5 million** toward the Woods remodeling project.
- Resident volunteer support at the Hillcrest Thrift Store and Gift Shop generated **\$43,931.50** to the Good Samaritan Fund.
- Luck of the Draw Annual Fundraiser **\$303,040.00**

Transitions at Hillcrest

By Matthew Neeley

One of the most interesting joys of working at Hillcrest is having access to the wisdom, experience, and understanding of residents. The life experiences of residents are so broad that it is likely they have already lived or outlived those experiences now being faced by Hillcrest associates. Residents often understand more about these experiences than the associates themselves because they have lived on both sides of them. This may seem like a small matter, but it is definitely an unwritten benefit for associates and perhaps for residents as well.

We have all experienced significant changes these past two and a half years. Some of those past two and a half years. Some of those include new residents and associates who have joined Hillcrest; and some who have moved on to the next stage of life. We are grateful for all who have come and are sad to see others go.

On the associate side, we welcome Keith Kasin, who joined Hillcrest September 21, 2022 as Hillcrest's new Vice President of Health Services. Keith oversees Hillcrest's care environments at Southwoods Lodge, Cedar Court, Birch Court, and Maple Court along with our skilled facility, Woods Health Services. Keith has worked for more than two decades in the field. He has experience in both for-profit and non-profit, faith-based retirement communities.



Hillcrest expressed our loving appreciation to Winnie Chen for her many contributions to Hillcrest over her six years of service. Winnie concluded her service September 2, 2022. We will miss her deeply and wish her well as she pursues her interests in the next chapter of her career.

Joel Brouwer joined Hillcrest as the new Chief Financial Officer in March, 2023. Joel oversees Hillcrest's Finance team and provides valuable information to our Board of Directors. Joel previously worked at First Quadrant, an investment management firm in Pasadena, where he was the Chief Financial/Compliance/Operations Officer. Additionally, he managed the Portfolio Accounting Department, System's Team, and oversaw the firm's financial and tax reporting. Joel has approximately thirty years of experience in the areas of financial operations, securities accounting, compliance, investment operations and systems, back office processing, financial statements, and portfolio management.



In August we said goodbye to Stacy Fringer who led dining services through the vicissitudes of the pandemic. We are pleased to welcome our new Dining Services Director, Danny Paz, who comes with extensive dining services experience in multiple settings. We also welcome Janet Zaiger, Certified Dietary Manager of Woods Health Services.



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About Camp Peaceful Pines

Camp Peaceful Pines is a summer camping site affiliated with the PSWD of the Church of the Brethren. It has been in operation for over 60 years in the central Sierra Nevada Mountains and the Carson Iceberg Wilderness. A variety of camps include: Junior / Jr High / Youth Camp, Discovery, Family Camp & Women's Retreat. We also rent the camp to groups such as family reunions when time slots are available and included this year the 'Song and Story' Fest



Discovery Camp

Camp Peaceful Pines is rustic and only open three months of the year due to severe weather in the winter and road closures. It is a cozy & inviting place, with a multitude of projects going on at any given time. 2023 saw continued work on metal roofs for Cabins 1,3, 7, 9. Current projects include replacement of Cabin 11 which began in August.

Family
Camp



Women's
Retreat



Volunteer superintendents, leaders, directors, counselors, nurses, construction workers, day laborers, families and friends all contribute to making Camp Peaceful Pines a viable spot for enjoying the great outdoors, while taking time for reflection and spiritual growth in a Christian community setting. The churches and other groups who donate annually to the camp budget help to defray the ongoing costs of running our camp. These costs include USFS fees, propane and fuel costs, garbage pickup, upkeep and maintenance of the facility, leadership stipends, upgrades to cabins and other amenities.



More information about specific camps and dates can be found on the web at

www.CampPeacefulPines.org

Camp Peaceful Pines

2301 Woodland Ave.
Modesto CA 95358

www.CampPeacefulPines.org

or search for us on Facebook
and Instagram

*Camp is located via Highway 108 adjacent to
Sonora Pass at 6,000 feet*

Thank you for your continued support of
the Outdoor Ministries program at
Camp Peaceful Pines.

Garry Pearson, 2023 Board Chair

Camp La Verne



Celebrating 100 Years Of Outdoor Ministry And Experiences!

Since 1924 Camp La Verne has been providing Brethren Churches and Nature Loving Folks from all walks of life a place to enjoy the peace, quiet, and serenity of the forest and all that Mother Nature has to offer.

We are located at 6,700 feet in elevation in the beautiful San Bernardino Mountains, with Jenks Lake, the Santa Ana River, Big Bear and numerous hiking, biking, and running trails at our fingertips! San Geronio is the tallest peak in Southern California, and it's trail heads are just a short hike from our doorstep!

Come stay with us! Here at Camp La Verne with our rustic yet cozy summer and winterized cabins and our four season bathroom and kitchen, we can accommodate groups of up to 100 campers throughout most of the year. Onsite and nearby activities like horseshoes, volleyball, archery, canoeing and challenge courses are here waiting for you! We also have a beautiful outdoor chapel, perfect for weddings, reading a good book, journaling, or just listening to the birds.

In addition to our scheduled summer camps, our CLV facilities are available for outside rentals such as school groups, Boy & Girl scouts, family reunions, weddings, and all denominations of church groups...everyone is welcome here!

Celebrate with us...we're turning 100! Keep an eye on our calendar... 2024 is going to be a very special year for everyone involved with Camp La Verne! Whether it's our Winter Camp, our Annual Camp Banquet, one of our CLV Summer Camps, or our Centennial Family Camp in 2024, please show your support by giving yourself the gift of a visit to us up on the mountain! We are here for you!!!

CLV Summer Camps...98% Volunteer! Thanks to our incredible Camp Directors, dedicated CLV Board Members, fantastic Kitchen Staff, and wonderful Work Camp Volunteers, Camp La Verne continues to provide to our own groups an extremely affordable 'Camp Experience' every summer for Middle, Junior, Senior High, College, and even Adult campers! (Registration for these is open to all)

If you or someone you know would like to volunteer at CLV, or serve on the CLV Board, we would love to have you! Please call us or send us an email.

CLV can be contacted at: 909-794-2931 or E-mail us at campmanager@camplaverne.org

You can also find us on the web at www.camplaverne.org and you can email us general questions at campmanager@camplaverne.org

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

In the past year, with private donations and the generosity of a grant from the Pacific Southwest District, we were able to update power lines, re-roof our wash house, and obtain materials for this Fall's re-roofing of the Camp Kitchen. While there is still so much more to do, we are making every great and small donation go a very, very long way!

(If you are able to help CLV in our quest for all of our 21st century upgrades, and want to support us, you may send your donation to Camp La Verne, PO Box 355, La Verne CA 91750-0355 or find our PayPal link on our website.)



Thanks to all and have a wonderful year!

Camp La Verne is under a Special Use Permit from the San Bernardino National Forest. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, Camp La Verne is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.



Eder Financial

BOLD. BALANCED. TRUSTED.

Eder Financial District Conference Report 2023

Greetings to the moderator, delegates, and members, as you gather for your District Conference!

Did you know Eder Financial can make a positive impact on your life, directly or indirectly, whether you qualify to use our services or not?

That's because we serve congregations and their staff so they can better perform their ministries for their members.

Eder provides a fantastic retirement plan and employee-based insurances for pastors, congregational, district, and camp employees. We can also manage special funds, like ministry funds, memorial funds, cemetery funds, and building funds for congregations and other church-related organizations.

We also provide several free workshops that help congregations learn how to grow their endowments, encourage people to include the congregation in their end-of-life financial decision-making, how to run the church as a business with good governance, and more. Ask the Eder representative attending your conference how we can bring a workshop to your congregation.

Can we serve you and your congregation if we aren't already? Give us a chance. You'll be glad you did. Ask us if your congregation, district, and camp are using our services. We welcome the conversation.

Eder Financial is now in its second year with its new name, having changed from Church of the Brethren Benefit Trust in May 2022. The transition has been well received in the denomination because of our core business model –

- We seek to serve congregations and organizations as partners, making choices and decisions surrounding participation in a retirement plan as easy as possible. It is important that we make it easy for all who can enroll to enroll, as many Americans are on track to have insufficient savings in retirement. We work to help ensure that our members are not faced with that problem, by helping them enroll early in their careers, saving to the plan consistently, and using an asset allocation model to help grow their funds. Not sure how to do that? We can help.
- We provide a concierge service model with our insurance products, answering questions and addressing all concerns proactively and satisfactorily. Our ancillary insurances of life, vision, dental, short- and long-term disability have held premium rate increases virtually flat over the past five years, which means eligible employees can protect themselves with various insurances while not suffering high premium rate increases year after year.
- Part-time employees can participate in both the Eder Retirement and Insurance plans. Ask us if you or someone you know qualifies.
- We manage funds of organizations in a manner that allows easy access, several tools for managing investments, and reports and resources that assist in the management of the funds. We would be glad to set up a demonstration for you and your organization of our fantastic customer web portal.
- And we provide education to give people information and to help them know what questions they should be asking so that they can be successful, whether helping to grow their congregations' financial base or to manage their own retirement plan or insurance offerings.



Eder Financial

BOLD. BALANCED. TRUSTED.

We also help tenured pastors and congregational, district, and camp staff who have extraordinary financial needs, if they meet certain guidelines. In 2022 the Church Workers' Assistance Plan that Eder manages granted \$250,000 to about 40 people who found themselves in financial distress with nowhere else to turn.

Most of the funds under our management conform to Eder Values Investing, which means you can utilize our services and know that your resources are being managed in accordance with the values in the Church of the Brethren tradition.

Serving others who have common bonds and convictions

Committed to serving as a Church of the Brethren Annual Conference agency, Eder is moving to include other people and organizations of faith that profess a like-mindedness with Eder Financial's values as an organization grounded in Christian faith. Program strength, product options, and lower costs come from a strong volume of business. Therefore, Eder will grow stronger in the long term by offering its ministries to others who seek competitive products backed by concierge service. If you know of a congregation, not-for-profit, or other faith-based organization that would benefit from Eder's services, please let us know.

EDER FINANCIAL BOARD and staff

The 12-person Eder Financial Board consists of people who have knowledge and experience in accounting, finance, investments, law, employee benefits, human resources, actuarial science, or represent pastors, district executives, and organizations that are Brethren or have common bonds and convictions. If you or someone you know would like to serve on the Eder Financial Board, let us know. We are always looking for people who are dedicated to service, want to do meaningful volunteer work, and are committed to being an active member of a board.

We also have 27 people on our staff, working in retirement, employee insurance, organizational investing, finance, investments, client relations, marketing, public relations, IT, data, special projects, and business development. We are a family friendly, faith-based organization that strives to provide concierge level service to our members and clients while also providing a fulfilling work environment in a permanent work-from-home setting. If you or someone you know is interested in an Eder Financial job, let us know.

CONCLUSION

Despite the expansion of its charter to bring in other members and clients of like mind from beyond the Church of the Brethren, Eder Financial remains committed to the denomination. Our organization was created by the Annual Conference to serve pastors, employees, churches, and organizations. That commitment to service has not wavered. We are here to help our members and clients achieve their financial goals. As we adopt new taglines, new goals, new language to articulate our vision, bridging our past with our future, one of our more recent BBT taglines melds quite nicely with Eder's future vision of walking alongside those we serve. "Building financial security. Bettering the world. Together." If you and/or your congregation have not walked with us in the past, let us do so in the future. In other words, those who have not given Eder Financial a look for a few years, or ever, should do so. Together, Eder will help you reach your financial goals which will help strengthen your ministry to the church.

Donna Rhodes
Board Chair

Nevin Dulabaum
President

Dear followers of Christ,

What does God need from the Church of the Brethren now (and are we prepared to give it)? What does it mean for us to be a “peace church” in today’s world?

Founded in 1974, On Earth Peace is an agency of the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference which seeks to embolden the Church of the Brethren as a historic and living peace church. Our name comes from the angel’s song at Jesus’ birth, “On Earth Peace and Good Will to All,” and we work to lift that song in today’s world.



Historically, our Brethren identity as a peace church was defined in part by our relationship to war: *Following Christ, we were against war.* Even as time passed and many Brethren didn’t agree with pacifism, the Church’s identity as a force for peace and against war remained vital. What is the core of our peace commitment today? What are we against, and what are we for--in God’s name?

In a church and world that is very polarized, what does it mean to you to be a follower of the Prince of Peace? In some ways, the war we were against has come home, and the sorely-needed peace (and justice) is more complicated than our ancestors in the faith may have known. Some parts are still the same--the all-surpassing love of Christ as a foundation of that peace--and yet the world in which we proclaim God’s love has changed, and so must our engagement with it.

On Earth Peace believes the Church of the Brethren has been called for such a time as this. We as Brethren are a relational, warm, discipleship-centered community. We help put hands and feet to God’s call to love all people. On Earth Peace seeks to help the Church of the Brethren become what it can be, “for the glory of God and our neighbor’s good.”

Here are three OEP initiatives we believe can help the Church of the Brethren become what’s needed in today’s world.

- **1000 Brethren Kingian Nonviolence Training.** We are seeking to train a new generation of Christian leaders in nonviolence, to focus our “peace” and aid in our community ministries.
- **Standing with People of Color Study/Action Process.** Together with the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District, OEP is leading a two-year denomination-wide study/action process focused around key conversations we’re asking the church to have.
- **Church of the Brethren Gun Violence Prevention Organizing Team.** A hearty band of Brethren from across the country has come together to galvanize all Brethren to stand and act together on the scourge of gun violence in the US.

Please consider whether your family can support this ministry financially. We hope your congregation will include our ministry as part of your outreach giving in your 2024 budget.

Write to us at OEP@OnEarthPeace.org and share how God is moving you towards peace or justice in these times. Visit www.OnEarthPeace.org to learn about our work and find upcoming events.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Guynn".

Matt Guynn

For OEP’s executive team, with Darlene Johnson and Marie Benner-Rhoades



Be **BOLD**

Since 1905, Bethany Theological Seminary has followed the example of Jesus by preparing others for lives of ministry and service. Our innovative learning community is grounded in an Anabaptist and Radical Pietist witness. We provide students with exceptional opportunities for advanced biblical and theological study that values both faith formation and academic freedom. We empower students to answer their calls from God and to lead through spiritual engagement, faith-filled thought, and transformative practice.

BE BOLD AT BETHANY

With the support of a \$1M grant from the Lilly Endowment, Bethany Theological Seminary is launching Bethany BOLD, a new initiative that will prepare students to lead congregations as they respond to diversity and division. (BOLD stands for Build, Organize, Love, and Dare.) The rigorous and demanding program will challenge Bethany's best and brightest students to apply their faith and education to address real-world problems, including poverty and racial injustice. Students selected for Bethany BOLD will be required to engage in service in the Wayne County community, participate in educational activities (like lectures and training sessions) outside the seminary, and participate in purposeful reflection about their experiences in the program. Participants in Bethany BOLD receive full-tuition scholarships, free housing, and a monthly living stipend.

OUR OFFICE IN JOS

Thanks to the generosity of alumni and friends, we are building a new office for our staff members in Nigeria.

This new space is adjacent to the Technology Centre in Jos, where Nigerian students attend classes in the Certificate in Biblical Peacemaking program. The newly constructed space will help staff better serve current and future students.

NEW FACULTY

Two new professors joined the Bethany faculty last fall.

Dr. Margaret "Maggie" Elwell is assistant professor of peace studies and director of Bethany BOLD. Elwell earned both her MDiv and PhD from Princeton Seminary. She previously directed the Center for Theology, Women, and Gender at Princeton Seminary, taught at the University of Maryland, and was a middle school teacher in Baltimore City Schools.

Dr. Tamisha Tyler is visiting assistant professor of theology and culture and theopoetics. She joins Bethany as a Louisville Institute Post-Doctoral Fellow. Tyler earned her doctorate at Fuller Seminary. Her scholarly and teaching interests include the novels of Octavia Butler and Afrofuturism.



615 National Road West, Richmond, IN 47374 ■ bethanyseminary.edu ■ 765-983-1800 ■ 800-287-8822

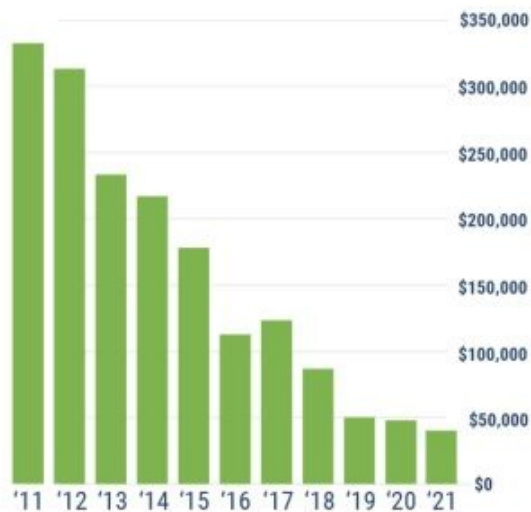


There's a Place for You at Bethany!

Bethany Theological Seminary is committed to helping all qualified students to answer their call from God and receive an exceptional education without taking on additional educational or consumer debt. As many seminaries have struggled with enrollment, our vibrant community has grown — and we have room for more students, both studying from a distance or joining our on-campus community and living in our “Neighborhood” of houses a few steps from campus.

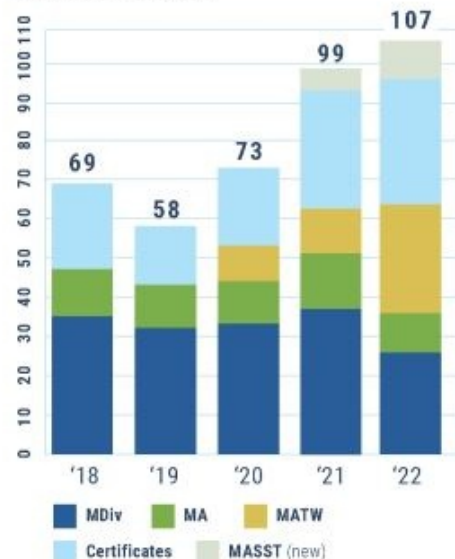
In recent years the Seminary has dramatically reduced total student borrowing, even as enrollment has grown. Students in our Bethany BOLD program, for example, receive reduced tuition, free housing, living stipends, opportunities for meaningful community engagement, and a course in Conscious Financial Living. Our goal is to help students earn Bethany degrees without taking on additional student or consumer debt.

TOTAL AMOUNT BORROWED BY ALL STUDENTS, PER YEAR



5-YEAR ENROLLMENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Historical Headcount



OUR MISSION: As an innovative learning community, grounded in an Anabaptist and Radical Pietist witness, Bethany Theological Seminary empowers every student to lead through spiritual engagement, faith-filled thought, and transformative practice — so that the world flourishes.



“When I was considering graduate school programs, I didn’t want to put additional financial burdens on my parents. I have lived in community for most of my life, so that was an attractive aspect of the Neighborhood as well. Bethany has been a wonderful choice for me.”

/SUSUYU LASSA, MASST 2022



“Generous scholarships and free housing made it possible for my wife (Hope Staton, MDiv 2023) and I to give our undivided attention to our studies. We have been able to immerse ourselves in this community and take on leadership roles in chapel and other Seminary activities. Living here helped us to see how we can adapt to new situations, which we know will be great preparation for our careers in ministry and service — no matter where life takes us.”

/CLARKE STATON, MA and MASST STUDENT



“I follow each student’s financial journey closely to ensure that they have the resources needed to make smart financial choices now and in the future.”

/TERRI MITCHELL, FINANCIAL AID AND ENROLLMENT ASSISTANT



“At Bethany, we believe that financial concerns should not be an obstacle to students answering a call from God to ministry and service. Providing an education that is exceptional, accessible, and affordable is our core mission.”

/REV. DR. JEFF CARTER, PRESIDENT

Making Seminary Affordable

85 PERCENT TUITION DISCOUNT

Thanks to the generous support of alumni and friends, and the careful investment of our resources, Bethany is very affordable.

GENEROUS FINANCIAL AID

Most students pay only the base tuition of \$1,100 per semester, qualifying for enough financial aid to cover the remaining costs.

TYPES OF AID AVAILABLE

- Academic Excellence Scholarship
- Church Covenant Grant
- Bethany BOLD
- Need-based grant
- Federal Work-Study
- Federal Stafford Loans
- International student aid



An exceptional biblical and theological education,
accessible and affordable for all.

Bethany At-a-Glance



DEGREE PROGRAMS

- Master of Divinity
- Master of Arts
- Master of Arts: Theopoetics and Writing
- Master of Arts in Spiritual and Social Transformation



CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

- Certificate of Achievement in Theological Studies
- Certificate of Achievement in Biblical Peacemaking
- Certificate in Intercultural Biblical Interpretation
- Certificate in Just Peace and Conflict Resolution
- Certificate in Theopoetics and Theological Imagination



BETHANY ACADEMY FOR MINISTERIAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

- Education for a Shared Ministry
- Training in Ministry
- Educación para un Ministerio Compartido
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Bethany's impact is possible because of the generosity of our friends.

Make a gift today at bethanyseminary.edu/donate

BETHANY QUICK FACTS

- **711** licensed or ordained pastors in the Church of the Brethren are graduates of Bethany Theological Seminary.
- **10 of 24** Church of the Brethren District Executives are Bethany graduates.
- This year, **six** Nigerian students graduated with graduate certificates. President Jeff Carter and Mark Lancaster, assistant to the president for international programs, traveled to Nigeria in May and met with church leaders, staff, and Bethany students and alumni.
- In May, we awarded **14** master's degrees and **12** graduate certificates.
- This year, **114** students were enrolled at Bethany, pursuing master's degrees or certificates.
- The Bethany BOLD program has created new partnerships between the Seminary and local non-profit organizations
- Total financial support from Congregations and Alumni during calendar year **2022** totaled **\$383,833.06**.





Church of the Brethren

Dear Friends and Family of Faith in the Pacific Southwest District,

Greetings in the name of Christ! My thoughts and prayers are with you, as you plan and prepare for your District Conference. I hope it will be a time of earnest conscientiousness and responsibility related to carrying out the denomination's mission, and a time of praise and celebration for the ways your congregations are putting Christ's love into action. May we feel God's presence among us.

I'm looking forward to our 237th recorded Church of the Brethren Annual Conference, scheduled for July 3–7, 2024, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Annual Conference is a special time in the life of our denomination. Yes, it is an occasion to facilitate the business of the church through the various business sessions, study committees, agency reports, and queries. But it is also a time for Brethren from all walks of life to celebrate our unique place and ministry in – and as – the Body of Christ. From inspirational worship services to quality leadership development, open dialogue to rejuvenating fellowship, Annual Conference invites us to welcome, encourage, and engage with one another as a community of faith.

In her book, *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again*, author Rachel Held Evans wrote that Christianity can't be an individual endeavor. Following Christ is a group activity – and one that, simultaneously, has been messy and incarnate since the beginning. Because, as Held Evans writes, "the church is not a group of people who believe all the same things; the church is a group of people caught up in the same story, with Jesus at the center."

As Brethren, we know this to be true. Since our founding more than 300 years ago, we've been a faith family that has chosen another way of living: the way of Christ. We are a people called to live and experience our faith together – in community – in service to and with God, each other, and our neighbors. Each of us brings our own unique perspectives and experiences to this community. And it is through our willingness to share our faith journeys with one another that we can experience and see God's vision for us more fully and, therefore, be transformed together by God's Spirit.

So, I invite you to join me and our denominational community in Grand Rapids next summer. Let's gather together knowing each of us is welcome and worthy – integral parts of the Body of Christ, answering God's call to build authentic relationships and community with ourselves, each other, and those around us.

In grace and peace,

Madalyn Metzger

2024 Annual Conference Moderator



Church of the Brethren

May 2023

Though the Brethren as a group have existed for nearly three hundred years, we subscribe to no formal creed. We simply try to do what Jesus did. Jesus brought a message of life, love, and hope. But he offered much more than inspiring words: He understood that people's spiritual needs also include day-to-day human ones – food, health, rest, comfort, friendship, and unconditional acceptance. "I am the way," he told his followers. He showed them how to trust, how to care, and how to help. Steadily, lovingly, even radically, Jesus went about saving the world – by serving its people. Because we believe his message, we seek to do the same.

– Church of the Brethren Identity Pamphlet

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Greetings to you in the name of Christ our Savior!

It is an honor and privilege to write to you on behalf of the staff, volunteers, and Mission and Ministry Board of the Church of the Brethren. We are praying for you, your congregations, and your district as you gather to worship, sing praises, pray, fellowship, and accomplish the tasks set before you by your District Moderator.

I am grateful for the many ways your district and local congregations faithfully strive to live out the Gospel – to simply try to do what Jesus did. The vital ministries of our Church of the Brethren congregations small to large are at the heart of our Church. We should never diminish the essential role that each unique part of the body plays in our common ministry together.

As we know all too well, there are a number of loud voices on either side of the issues we face inside and outside the church that are demanding our attention and have dominated much of our time these past number of years. My efforts at intentional listening are to hear the voice of the Church – listening for God's voice arising not from the loudest few, but from the gathered community. As I listen, there is no doubt that some of you clearly resonate with the dominant voices, yet the prevailing voice is one of hope – hope in one Body in Christ continuing our ministry and work together.

We have not been doing "together" very well as a Church. I am aware that many are weary of the struggle, yet as disciples of Jesus we are called to another way of living – a way that is not always easy and requires struggle. I would invite you to join me in our continued struggle to follow Jesus. It is my hope that we might change our adversarial posture to one of serving one another – one in which we stoop to wash the feet of our brother or sister in Christ. I believe such a change in posture positions us to listen more intently to one another – thus better able to love and care for the other. I believe that such a posture of service would be transformational for our Church and our neighborhoods.

Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.

1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, Illinois 60120 847-742-5100 800-323-8039 Fax: 847-742-6103

My friends, I do hope you can see that our work together is worthwhile. We are doing good ministries together locally in our congregations and districts and denominationally. Our efforts at offering the cup of cold water model to the world that we are about another way of living – the way of Jesus. May we not forget that through our simple acts of service, we too are working to save the world – in Jesus' name.

Your servant in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Steele', written in a cursive style.

David Steele
General Secretary



PART-TIME PASTOR FULL-TIME CHURCH

SUPPORTING MULTI-VOCATIONAL PASTORS

Greetings from the Part-time Pastor; Full-time Church program of the Office of Ministry of the Church of the Brethren!

It is our pleasure to share information about this valuable program with your district conference.

The aim of the program is to resource and support Multi-Vocational Pastors (MVPs), those working less than full-time or who are less than fully compensated, with companionship and wisdom sharing all along their journey.

Taking our cue from Jesus' walk with two disciples on the road to Emmaus, we offer through the program deep compassionate listening and a desire to help pastors reflect on the events of their lives as together they seek Spirit-inspired wisdom. Circuit riders and leaders of the program aim to imitate Jesus in listening well and offering support and resources that can strengthen MVPs and help them thrive in their ministry and partnership with congregations.

Here are a few of the ways the program seeks to help pastors thrive -

1. ***Companionship*** – We invite your district's MVPs to become matched with one of the program's wise, seasoned circuit riders who will offer a listening ear, program resources, and spiritual support in collaboration with your district leadership
2. ***Wisdom sharing*** – pastors may join a short-term virtual book study led by circuit rider, John Fillmore, and learn from companions on the journey from the wider church. Or ask one of the program's leaders to lead a virtual study for your district's pastors
3. ***A Breather*** - Take a break from your day and check out "A Resting Place" with Erin Matteson, circuit rider and spiritual director, and others in brief, centering, prayerful videos posted on our Facebook and Instagram pages (see links on reverse side of flyer)
4. ***Guidance*** - Request an experienced circuit rider or program consultant to help your pastors lead their congregation's conversations regarding mission and outreach
5. ***Dreaming*** - dream and plan about what resources your district's pastors need and support them in requesting a grant from the program for a retreat or continuing education event for all pastors. Invite program staff and consultants to provide leadership for the event.
6. ***Sabbath rest*** – modest financial grants are available for MVPs who need to find respite from ministerial responsibilities for a day, a weekend, or longer.

Find out more – see reverse side for program staff's contact info and social media sites

Part-time Pastor; Full-time Church Program Staff

Richard Wehrle, Program Manager

Rwehrle@brethren.org 847-429-4365

Tabitha Hartman Rudy, Administrative Assistant

adminptpftc@brethren.org

Laura Whitman Dy, Social Media/Design

parttimepastorfulltimechurch@gmail.com

Nancy Sollenberger Heishman, Director, Office of Ministry

nsheishman@brethren.org 847-429-4381

Join the program or simply learn about its resources.

parttimepastorfulltimechurch@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/ptpftcbrethren/@ptpftcbrethren

<https://www.instagram.com/ptpftcbrethren/>

Main Website:

<https://www.brethren.org/ministryoffice/part-time-pastor/>

A ministry of the Church of the Brethren



Church of the Brethren

March 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The earthquake in Turkey and Syria, war and violence from Ukraine to Africa, and a US school shooting are some of the things that have challenged BDM to respond creatively and prayerfully to deep hardships and loss in 2022 and the beginning of 2023. Whether responding to a natural disaster, violence, or other crisis, BDM staff and volunteers journeyed with survivors and families toward recovery and hope, often transforming lives, in places like Waverly, Tenn.; Uvalde, Texas; Dawson Springs, Ky.; and North Fort Meyers, Fla.

Encouragement for this ministry is found throughout the sacred scripture, such as Galatians 6:9a, 10a: “Let us not lose heart in doing good, . . . while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people”. It is also found in our partners such as Pamlico County (N.C.) Disaster Recovery Coalition, which shared: “[Not] only have you (BDM) helped to repair hurricane damaged homes, but you have also helped to restore and mend broken hearts. The light you have shown, and the relationships you have built with survivors and their families, will long have an impact on them and their generations.”

Children’s Disaster Services (CDS) volunteers responded this past year with deep compassion to the school shooting in Uvalde (Texas), floods, wildfires, and hurricanes. In Uvalde, specially trained volunteers (Critical Response Childcare teams) supported children and families of the 19 children killed by a lone shooter. These volunteers had 385 contacts with children as they helped them process the trauma and build resiliency in the face of this tragedy.

After Hurricane Ian made landfall in late September 2022, causing catastrophic damage along southwest Florida, CDS volunteers were initially housed by rebuilding volunteers with homes in the area. CDS teams served for six weeks in Florida shelters, with over 400 child contacts. During 2022, a total of 86 CDS volunteers served 1,065 children on eight responses. CDS also held three volunteer training workshops resulting in 40 newly trained volunteers, bringing the total CDS volunteer base to 576 by year’s end.

In March 2022, the BDM rebuilding program network of volunteers finished four years of repairing and rebuilding homes in the Carolinas following Hurricanes Matthew (2016) and Florence (2018). The program transitioned to Waverly, Tenn., for the remainder of the year, in response to devastating August 2021 flooding, when over 17 inches of rain fell in 24 hours. In October, a three week short-term response supported new home construction in Dawson Springs, Ky., where tornadoes destroyed around 650 homes in December 2021. Volunteer leadership on the projects was provided by 47 disaster project leaders from across the country who served to welcome and support 572 volunteers. The rebuilding program site moved to Dawson Springs, Ky., in January 2023 to continue the tornado recovery with local partners.

A local hybrid response to the October 2021 tidal flooding in Maryland’s Somerset and Dorchester counties was led by members of the Mid-Atlantic District, with support from BDM staff, vehicles, and equipment. In 2022, two homes were repaired by 35 volunteers through a

Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.

Brethren Disaster Ministries, 601 Main Street, P.O. Box 188, New Windsor, Maryland 21776-0188
410-635-8731 800-451-4407 Fax: 410-635-8739

grant award from Lowes Home Improvement and the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD). This funding included \$30,000 in Lowes Gift Cards to purchase construction materials for the homes and \$4,200 to support volunteer housing and meals. This work will be completed in 2023.

In early February 2023, the world watched the rescue of survivors of the Turkey-Syria earthquake that has taken more than 50,000 lives. BDM responded quickly with Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) grants to partners working in both countries. The quake adds to the list of global catastrophes, including the Russian invasion of Ukraine in early 2022, resulting in a war that has displaced more than 12 million Ukrainians and, reportedly, caused nearly 7,000 Ukrainian deaths by the end of 2022. BDM responded to this crisis with EDF grants (totaling \$215,000 in 2022) in collaboration with five key partners. Additional grants are expected early in 2023.

The BDM global response includes dual programs in Haiti that continue the 2021 earthquake response, with \$166,969 in funds, while also addressing the acute overlapping crisis caused by the total collapse of the Haitian government. With severe hunger on the rise, a special program is helping to provide food to vulnerable families in the communities around the Haitian Brethren churches through a \$39,000 grant. Smaller EDF grants supported global Churches of the Brethren in Uganda (\$27,500) and Venezuela (\$10,000) with flood recovery programs, as well as the South Sudan Mission (\$11,000).

The Nigeria Crisis Response, a continued response to terrorism since 2014, provided support to four camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs), food distributions, medical assistance, livelihood training centers for widows and orphans, seeds and fertilizer, new wells for drinking water, and home repairs for the most vulnerable. Additional EDF grants included support for vulnerable Syrian refugees and Lebanese in Lebanon, continued hurricane and flood recovery in Honduras, and support for programming of the Rwandan Church of the Brethren.

The total BDM programmatic expenses in 2022 were \$1,676,048. This includes the expenses from EDF allocations that support specific programs such as \$274,393 for U.S. responses (Rebuilding, CDS, etc.); \$190,076 for the Nigeria Crisis Response; \$281,469 for other Global CoB partners; and \$364,909 for all other global responses.

This ministry is only possible because the whole church is working together. Individual members and supporters, volunteers, churches, districts, and the auctions are part of the body of Christ coming together to pray, serve, give hope, and help families heal. Through all this we pray that more people come to God and know God's amazing love.

Thank you for your support and encouragement. You are an integral part of the body bearing witness to God's love for all who are lost and need Christ.



Roy Winter, Executive Director for Service Ministries

On behalf of BDM staff: Jenn Dorsch-Messler, Sharon Franzén, Kim Gingerich, and Michael Scalzi

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ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

BRETHREN VOLUNTEER SERVICE

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF BVS!

BVS BY THE NUMBERS

Volunteers currently serving:

27

(18 in the US, 3 in Europe, 1 in Latin America, 4 in Asia, 1 in Africa)

Currently active BVS project sites:

About 50

Number of US states home to BVS project sites:

16 (plus D.C.)

Current BVS monthly stipend:

\$250

Total volunteers serving in BVS since 1948:

7,000+

A diamond jubilee of service around the world

In 1948, young adults encouraged by Brethren leader Dan West brought a surprise motion to the floor of Annual Conference that left an indelible mark on the denomination.

While service had long been part of the Church of the Brethren, delegates embraced that proposal to formally start Brethren Volunteer Service, enabling young Brethren and others to respond energetically to the devastation of World War II in Europe, to hunger in Puerto Rico, and to a variety of needs around the US.

Seventy-five years later, BVS continues to be one of the great touchstones of Brethren faith: a source of leadership development, faith formation, relationship building, identity, mutual service, and more.



The anniversary is being celebrated with a new book from author Jim Lehman, *A Year of Living Differently*, published by Brethren Press, as well as special commemorations at Annual Conference, National Older Adult Conference, and elsewhere, plus some local and regional celebrations. A 75th anniversary Facebook group drew about 500 members who shared stories, and photos, while a monthly e-newsletter delivered other highlights.

We are grateful to everyone who has been part of that story, one that is still being written around the world.

BVS welcomes a new director

Chelsea Goss Skillen began as the new director of BVS in October 2022.

Emily Tyler resigned in February 2022 after three years in the position, and former director **Dan McFadden** provided interim leadership for eight months.

Originally from the Richmond, Va., area, Chelsea did an undergraduate degree at Bridgewater (Va.) College and has a master's in Organizational Leadership from Regis University. She spent two years as a BVSer previously.



NEWS & NOTES

Other new staff welcomed this past year included **Marissa Witkovsky-Eldred** as interim coordinator of short-term service; **Walt Wiltschek** as part-time office coordinator; and **Virginia Rendler**, who is starting as interim volunteer coordinator in July 2023. **Pauline Liu** completed her service as volunteer coordinator in February.

Mid-year retreats

Each year, current BVSers in the US gather for a mid-year retreat to take a break, talk about their experiences, reconnect with one another, and prepare for the remainder of their service time. In March 2023, a group of 20 volunteers (including two German volunteers serving with other placement organizations) met at Camp Ithiel in Gotha, Fla., for several days together that included discussion, a service project, games and relaxation, and a trip to the beach.

Volunteers serving in Europe planned to gather in late June in Galway, Ireland for a similar retreat. BVS marked 50 years of working in Northern Ireland in 2022.

Explore the BVS
Facebook group
and e-news!



UPCOMING ORIENTATIONS

BVS will be welcoming new volunteers at two orientation units in the summer and fall of 2023. The summer unit will take place **Aug. 1-9 at Inspiration Hills Camp in Burbank, Ohio**, while the fall unit will be held **Sept. 26-Oct. 4 at Camp Koinonia in Cle Elum, Wash.** About 25-30 volunteers are expected again this year. A strong partnership with EIRENE in Germany continues to benefit BVS' overall recruitment.

Faith X: Another way of serving



Short-term service opportunities through FaithX (formerly the workcamp program) in 2023 included 11 total trips with about 170 youth and advisors participating. Experiences were available in nine states plus Washington, D.C., and Spain.

FaithX introduced a new pricing model this year based on participants' ability to pay, with subsidized, standard, and supporter (extra donation) options available. The 2023 FaithX theme was "Voices for Peace," drawn from Romans 15:1-6.

PARTNERS IN SERVICE

This year's BVS Partners in Service Award was given to Jim Lehman, a member of Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren in Elgin, Ill., who has been a long-time supporter of BVS.



Most recently, Jim curated and wrote the 75th anniversary book, *A Year of Living Differently*. Jim has also written other BVS publications in the past and has connected with many volunteers over the years, chronicling BVS' history.

The award is presented each summer at the BVS luncheon held during Annual Conference.

**Minutes of the
Fifty-Ninth Annual District Conference
Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren**

November 12, 2022

University of La Verne

I. Call to Order

- Opening song.
- The Pacific Southwest District was called to order and led in prayer by Moderator Cheryl Crane at 8:42 a.m.
- Instructions were given about translation and Zoom technical needs.

II. Roll Call and Establishing of Quorum

Roll was called with 52 delegates from 18 congregations in attendance establishing a quorum so that we could conduct the business of the Pacific Southwest District at this 59th District Conference.

III. Dedication of the Delegates

Moderator Cheryl Crane invited the delegates to join her in reciting the Delegates' Dedication on page 8 of the Business Book.

IV. Introduction of Leadership

Moderator Cheryl Crane introduced the leadership: Erik Brummett, Policy Board Chair; Judy Minnich Stout, Moderator-Elect; Laura Miller, Clerk; Paul Lovelace, Parliamentarian; Russ Matteson, District Executive Minister; Joseph Guthrie, Technical Support.

V. Approval of Agenda and the Minutes

Karen Pierson (Church of the Living Savior) moved and William Himes (La Verne) seconded to approve the agenda (page 3 in the Business Book) and minutes from the 2021 conference (page 45 in the Business Book) as presented. Passed.

A committee was named to certify the accuracy of the 2022 minutes: Phil Corr, Janet Short, and Linda Davis.

VI. Conversation Tables

Time was given for table discussion: introduce yourself, share a ministry of your church, share a passion you have.

VII. Business Item: Exhibit A. Presentation of Ballot (See page 49 in the 2022 Business Book)

- A. Judy Stout, Nominating Committee Chair, introduced the ballot. A PowerPoint introducing the nominees was shown.
- B. There were no nominations from the floor.
- C. **Norma Sexton (Prince of Peace) moved and Muir Davis (La Verne) seconded to approve the ballot as a slate. Passed.**
- D. The following persons were elected to the PSWD 2023 positions:
 - 1. Moderator-Elect: Paul Lovelace, Pomona Fellowship - SE
 - 2. Nominating Committee: Brenda Dickson, South Bay - SW
 - 3. Program Committee, District Conference: Karen Pierson, Church of the Living Savior - CC
 - 4. District Board of Administration Youth & Young Adult Representative
 - a. Cooper Sampson, Modesto - NC
 - b. Elena Yoder, Circle of Peace - AZ
 - 5. District Board of Administration At-Large Representative
 - a. Erik Brummett, Live Oak - NC - (incumbent)

- b. Jay Irizarry, Empire - NC (incumbent)
- c. Fernanda Navarrete, Pasadena - SCW
- 6. Southern California East and Nevada
 - a. Richard Zapata, Principe de Paz - SCE (incumbent)

VIII. Introduction of Guests and New Pastoral Leadership

- A. Russ Matteson introduced the guests attending the conference and the new pastoral leadership in the District.
- B. Guests: Shannon McNeil Smith, Church of the Brethren, Inc.; Barbara Date (via Zoom), Mission and Ministry Board; Daniel Radcliff and Steve Mason, Eder Financial Services; Lori Current, Bethany Seminary; Matt Guynn (via Zoom), On Earth Peace; Tim McElwee, Annual Conference Moderator, 2023.
- C. New Pastoral Leadership: San Diego, Carrie Cesar; La Verne, Amanda Bennett.

IX. Annual Conference Moderator

Tim McElwee greeted the conference attendees and explained the theme for the next year: *Living God's Love*. What does it mean to live and love? Tim spoke about the recent Annual Conference and invited people to attend the 2023 Annual Conference in Cincinnati next summer.

X. Recognition of Ordination Anniversaries

Norma Sexton, Ministry Commission Chair, directed us to page 14 in the Business Book and shared that there is a combined 340 years of leadership from the ministers recognized today. Certificates were presented to those present and will be mailed to those who were not present.

XI. Report from Eder Financial

Dan Radcliff presented a report and a video.

XII. Business Item: Exhibit D. Pasadena DBA to Conexión (See page 58 in the 2022 Business Book)

- A. Erik Brummett and Russ Matteson introduced page 58 of the Business Book and explained the history of the Pasadena CoB and Conexión. The work of Conexión is the continuation of the Pasadena congregation.
- B. Time was given for questions or discussion. Peggy Redman, Nurturing and Credentialing Committee, shared that she had met with the group and highly supports the recommendation.
- C. **The Executive Board recommends the approval of the DBA item of Pasadena and Conexión. Approved.**

XIII. Bethany Seminary

Lori Current showed a video and gave a short report on Bethany Seminary and the degrees and certificates available. She emphasized that receiving an education at Bethany Seminary is affordable. She noted the other leadership courses that are available beyond the M.Div. degree.

XIV. Standing Committee Report (See page 15 in the 2022 Business Book)

- A. Don Shankster directed participants to page 15 in the Business Book. He spoke about the nomination process for the denominational positions and asked for suggestions of people who may be interested in being nominated to a position.
- B. Don answered questions about concerns in the Denomination. He noted that *The Messenger*, which is a publication of the Church of the Brethren, is available. It has a synopsis of Annual Conference and other items of note about the Denomination.

XV. Workshops

Cheryl Crane dismissed the attendees to attend workshops, followed by lunch.

1 Afternoon Session**2 XVI Church of the Brethren, Inc. Report**

3 Shannon McNeil Smith greeted the attendees and spoke of gratitude for the churches, gave a
4 report, and showed a video.

5 XVII. Policy Board Report (See pages 20-22 in the 2022 Business Book)**6 A. Board Chair**

7 Erik Brummett, Board Chair, directed attendees to his report on pages 20 and 21 in the
8 Business Book. Erik shared the history of selling the property in Paradise, California. The
9 2018 Camp Fire destroyed the town of Paradise. The church was formally closed and the
10 property was sold.

11 Rafael Aranda was thanked for his work as youth advisor. The youth of the district are
12 separated by great geographical differences, which makes it difficult for them to get together.
13 It was decided to pause the youth ministry for now and therefore eliminate the youth ministry
14 position.

15 At the August board meeting, it was discussed that the District seeks to be multi-cultural
16 and engage in the Standing With People of Color study / action process 2022-2024.

17 B. Ministry Commission, Norma Sexton, Chair

18 Norma Sexton, Ministry Commission Chair, directed attendees to the Ministry
19 Commission Report on page 21 of the Business Book. She highlighted that this year we
20 expanded our scope of ministry resiliency grants. Funds are still available.

21 The Pastor / Spouse Retreat was held at Asilomar Conference Center at Pacific Grove
22 and included family members. The next retreat will be June 12-16 at Serra Retreat Center in
23 Malibu.

24 The Nurturing and Credentialing Committee met and conducted two ordination
25 interviews: Rita Flores, who has been ordained at Cristo Sion, and Julia Wheeler, who
26 graduated from Bethany Seminary, completed ordination paperwork and will be ordained in
27 January. Nurturing and Credentialing is looking forward to having more ordination
28 interviews this year.

29 C. Nominating Committee Report,

30 Judy Stout noted that the ballot had been approved earlier in the conference.

31 D. Congregational Vitality Task Group, Cheryl Crane, chair.

32 Judy Stout reported that the Congregational Vitality Committee awarded several "Jesus
33 in the Neighborhood" grants. The purpose is to support a church that has an idea how to
34 engage its neighborhood.

35 E. Partnership in Ministry

36 Dot Hess reported that many grants have been given to assist churches over the last year.

37 XVIII. Business Item: Exhibit C. Policy Board Budget Recommendations (See pages 54-57 in the
38 2022 Business Book)

39 A. Russ Matteson directed the conference attendees to pages 54-57 of the Business Book and
40 highlighted a few items.

41 B. At the April meeting, the Policy Board discussed the budget. PSWD continues to invest in
42 congregations. The Church Planting Support Budget helps the four new churches that we
43 have.

44 C. **Action item: Erik Brummett presented the recommendation from the Policy Board for
45 the adoption of the 2023 Operating Budget and the 2023 Church Planting Support
46 Budget as presented. Time was allowed for discussion.**

47 D. **The 2023 Operating Budget and 2023 Church Planting Support Budget were approved.
48 1 opposed, 0 abstained.**

E. **Erik Brummett presented the Policy Board recommendation to the District Conference that the expense maximum for the 2024 Operating Budget be \$468,000. Approved, 1 opposed, 0 abstained.**

XIX. Recognition of Joe Vecchio's 29 years of service

Russ Matteson gave a history of Joe Vecchio's 29 years of service as the Administrative Assistant for the PSWD and presented Joe with gifts from the District in appreciation for his work.

Joe Vecchio spoke briefly about his appreciation for his time working for the PSWD and received a standing ovation from the conference participants.

XX. On Earth Peace

Matt Guynn appeared via Zoom and led a discussion about agape love and peace. Matt extended an invitation to attend a training webinar in December about Kingian Nonviolence.

XXI. Program Committee Report: (See page 16 in the 2022 Business Book)

Cheryl Crane directed the attendees to page 16 of the Business Book for her report. She thanked the Program Committee for their work. She thanked everyone who helped to make this conference a success.

XXII. District Executive Minister and Staff Report (DEM): (See pages 12-14 in the 2022 Business Book)

- A. Russ Matteson directed attendees to his report. He expressed thanks for people working together to make things happen: Policy Board, Executive Board, Nominating Committee, etc. Policy Board members were recognized with applause.
- B. Russ reported that the PSWD is blessed with good pastors. There have been several retirements and relocations this year, which require a lot of work.
- C. Russ invited participants to take back to their congregations ways in which the District can partner at local levels. There are several grants available to try new ministry ideas.
- D. Gilbert Romero directed the attendees to his report on page 14 of the Business Book. He shared that the students were doing well in their studies.
- E. The PSWD has contracted with Jeff Glass to work with Percept data about the communities where we live. Jeff can help local churches to find one or two projects that can help in their neighborhoods through the Know to Grow initiative provided by the district.
- F. Russ outlined plans for his 9 week sabbatical coming in January, 2023.

XXIII. Table Talk:

Time was given for table talk during which participants could talk about workshops attended or what they would take back to their congregations from the conference.

XXIV. Passing the Gavel and Adjournment

Cheryl Crane adjourned the meeting and passed the gavel to Judy Stout at 4:52 pm.

Minutes recorded by Laura Miller, clerk

In March 2023, the draft copy of the minutes was examined and given preliminary approval by committee members Phil Corr (Church of the Living Savior), Janet Short (Pomona Fellowship) and Linda Davis (Church of the Living Savior).

Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren

November 2022 – November 2023 Ballot

Candidates are listed alphabetically by last name.

NC=Northern California, CC=Central California, SW=Southern CA West, SE=Nevada & Southern CA East, AZ=Arizona
Incumbent=Nominee is finishing an elected term to the same position; Unexpired Term=finishing another person's term.

Moderator-Elect

Vote for 1 Two year term

	Norma Sexton, Prince of Peace - NC

Program Committee

Vote for 1 Three year term

	Janice Shaw Morgan, La Verne - SCE

Nominating Committee

Vote for 1 Three year term

	Jose Rudy Amaya, Principe de Paz - SCE

Standing Committee Representative

Vote for 1 Three year term

	Shawn Carothers, Circle of Peace - AZ

Standing Committee Alternate

Vote for 1 Three year term

	Kim Boardman, Modesto - NC

District Board of Administration Youth & Young Adult Representatives

Vote for 1 One year term

	Madison McMillin, Papago Buttes - AZ

District Board of Administration

At-Large Representatives

Vote for 2 Three year term

	Jon Chubb, Papago Buttes - AZ
	Arnoldo Mendoza, Los Banos - NCA

Southern California West

Vote for 1 Three year term

	Jim LeFever, Glendale - SCW (Incumbent)

Northern California

Vote for 1 Three year term

	Mike Monson, Modesto - NCA

Pacific Southwest District - Church of the Brethren Background Information for the 2020 - 2021 Ballot

Candidates are listed by office, alphabetically by last name.

Descriptions of each office are condensed from the PSWD Constitution: www.pswdcob.org

Moderator-Elect (vote for 1): The two year term begins immediately. In addition to being an officer of District Conference, the Moderator-Elect serves on the District Board of Administration, the District Conference Program Committee, and chairs the Nominating Committee.



Norma Sexton:

Age: 65

Congregation:

Prince of Peace

Vocation: Retired

pharmacist and active
orchestral musician

Church Experience:

I serve my local church as
Financial Secretary and as a
leader for worship and

education programs. I have served several terms on the District Policy Board and am completing my current term as Chair of the District Ministry Commission.

Vision Statement: My vision for the District is to support the local ministers and congregations in their worship and ministry programs, to learn from each other and to be inspired to venture into new ministries that will advance the cause of Christ in the communities where we are planted.

Standing Committee Delegate (vote for 1) & **Alternate** (vote for 1): are elected by the District Conference to serve a 3 year term representing the district on Annual Conference Standing Committee, and are eligible to serve on additional term. When a Standing Committee Delegate is not able to complete the term, the alternate completes the term to provide continuity, assuming the replaced delegate's term limits.



Delegate

Shawn Carothers:

Age: 59

Congregation:

Circle of Peace

Vocation: High School

Science Teacher

Church Experience:

I am on the Leadership team at Circle of Peace in the role of Chair of Property and Plant Maintenance. I am on the Ethics committee for the Pacific Southwest District. I have served as a delegate and table facilitator at several Annual Conferences over the past decade or two.

Vision Statement: As a new member of Standing Committee I hope to bring a fresh set of eyes and ears to the wider church discernment process. I look forward to helping craft a new direction for the denomination as a whole, a direction where we focus on "being Jesus" in the diverse communities our individual congregations serve. Our denomination not only needs vision, but also, tangible resources

that our brothers and sisters across the country and the world can call upon as they serve and welcome those around them. I look forward to the day where the majority of church business is focused on empowerment and training of our clergy and laity and much less on the in-fighting over a handful of theological differences. Being a Christ focused denomination is one of our greatest strengths. Enabling others to welcome and serve their neighbor is my vision for the wider church.

Ballot Background Information, Exhibit B



Alternate

Kim Boardman:

incumbent Age: 64
Congregation: Modesto

Vocation: Retired /
Substitute Teacher

Church Experience:

I have worn many hats at the Modesto COB. My husband and I have served for many years as youth or junior high youth leaders. I have been deeply involved in our church's summer Children's Peace Week event. I have provided leadership at various camps at Camp Peaceful Pines, including Director of Women's Retreat for the last 3 years. I have attended

Annual Conference as a delegate several times and served as a table facilitator. Most recently, I have been serving as the Board Chairperson at the Modesto COB. I also recently completed the Children's Disaster Services training.

Vision Statement: I truly believe that the Church of the Brethren, through the teachings of Jesus, has the vital message and call to share "another way of living" with all. To me, another way of living means loving our neighbors, whoever and wherever they may be, as ourselves. Another way of living means to value all life with compassion. It means the church must work to remain relevant in an ever changing world so that we can continue to spread the good news and love of Jesus.

Nominating Committee (vote for 1): The three year term begins immediately. Members may not serve successive terms. Nominating Committee presents to the District Conference a ballot for each vacancy.



Jose Rudy Amaya:

Age: 54

Congregation:
Pasadena CoB

Vocation: Community
Chaplain and
Humanitarian

Church Experience:

I've served in a variety of capacities, including deacon, preacher, delegate, and board member, for

the Príncipe de Paz congregation in Santa Ana between 2011 and 2020. In the past, I have also served on the denomination's Church Planting Committee and the PSWD's Board of Administration.

Vision Statement: My vision is to assist PSWD in connecting with churches in order to identify members who are spiritually called to create radical transformation and guide us in serving our communities in the manner of Jesus.

Program Committee, District Conference (vote for 1): The three year term begins immediately.

The Committee is responsible for planning the District Conference program, obtaining leadership, and making all necessary arrangements for the conference, in cooperation with on-site representatives.



Janice Shaw-Morgan:

Congregation: La Verne

Vocation: Retired from
Teaching

Church Experience:

I was recently certified with Children's Disaster Services. I have served as AC and District delegate several times. I am part of the Bread ministry, Sanctuary Choir, and Bell choir at LVCOB. I have

served on many different commissions, as well as Board Secretary, and am currently a member of the Spiritual Life and Nurture Commission which works to create a positive spiritual experience for worshippers

Vision Statement: I envision a conference where all feel welcomed and appreciated for their gifts. This would include speakers, music, and activities that would appeal to a large variety of ages, interests, and abilities.

PSWD Board of Administration: The term begins immediately. The purpose of the Board is to manage and administer the religious and business activities of the District, as authorized by the District Conference.

PSWD Board of Administration Section Reps: Vote for 1 in each section (three year term)

Northern California Representative: Board members elected as sectional representatives need to reside in the section they represent, and must be a member of a Church of the Brethren congregation within the district for at least one year prior to election and must have demonstrated leadership ability.



Mike Monson:

Age: 67

Congregation: Modesto

Vocation: Retired
Paralegal. Current Uber
Driver

Church Experience:

Play guitar for worship. Occasionally lead
worship. Teaching Adult Sunday School.

Vision Statement: My life's orientation is to
follow the teachings of Jesus in my own way,
supported by the inspiration of my fellow church
members.

Southern California West Representative: Board members elected as sectional representatives need to reside in the section they represent, and must be a member of a Church of the Brethren congregation within the district for at least one year prior to election and must have demonstrated leadership ability.



Jim LeFever: (Incumbent)

Age: 76

Congregation: Glendale

Vocation: Retired Architect

Church Experience:

Recently I was a member
of the Glendale board and
have sat on the district

policy board for the last term. Perhaps more

interesting, I have assisted the district in realizing
the new Los Banos church building and am
currently discussing the new Las Vegas church
project.

Vision Statement: I'm excited about being
involved in an active, growing and diverse district. It
feels as if a corner is being turned and I like the idea
of being a part of it.

Ballot Background Information, Exhibit B

PSWD Board of Administration: At-Large Representatives Vote for 2 (three year term)

Board members must be a member of a Church of the Brethren congregation within the district for at least one year prior to election and must have demonstrated leadership ability.



Jon Chubb:

Age: 42

Congregation:
Papago Buttes

Vocation: Pastor

Church Experience:

After a 7 year absence

from local pastor ministry, I was pleased to accept the call to pastor Papago Buttes Church of the Brethren in Scottsdale AZ in May 2021. I had been a frequent guest speaker there for several years, so I wasn't a complete stranger in accepting the role.

I didn't grow up in the Brethren system and so one of my goals was to make sure I've become as acclimated as possible and have attended one virtual and two in-person Annual Conferences, as well as the virtual and last in-person District Conference. I've also taken three TRIM classes on Brethren polity, history and theology. I've continued to get to know several other Brethren pastors at these events, along with connecting with others via Facebook and Zoom.

Vision Statement: My vision is for the local church to thrive by being a place where Christ's love is shone on the local community. As the church's influence continues to wane, we are presented with an amazing opportunity to meet tangible needs and be the salt and light Christ calls us to be.



Arnoldo Mendoza:

Age: 54

Congregation:
Centro Ágape in Acción

Vocation: Owner of
Mendoza's Upholstery

Church Experience:

Leadership, men's

ministry, share the Gospel when pastors are out of the church.

Vision Statement: My vision is that every family would be able to have an encounter with the love of God.

PSWD Board of Administration: Youth & Young Adult Representative. Vote for 1 (one year term)

Youth members must be at least 15 years old and less than 24 years old as of December 31 of the year elected.



Madison McMillen:

Age: 16

Congregation:
Papago Buttes

Vocation: Full-time
Student / Athlete

Church Experience: I

recently, as of last summer

went to the national youth conference in Denver, Colorado. Going to the youth conference helped me strengthen my relationship with God as well as

see and learn so many things. It allowed me to have clarity I didn't know I needed.

Vision Statement: Being a youth leader who helps as many people as possible realize God's power. I want to be a leader who can speak up and who can help the board also see things through the side of the youth in order to support the growth of the Church of the Brethren and make it a welcoming, joyous, and inspirational place for leadership and outreach.

Pacific Southwest District 2024 Operating Budget and Church Planting Support Budget, and 2025 Operating Expense Maximum

In the pages that follow you will find the proposed 2024 PSWD Operating Budget, the 2024 Church Planting Support Budget, and the recommended 2025 Operating Expense Maximum from the Policy Board.

The District overall is in a good financial position. Investments we hold with Eder Organizational Investing are still over \$4 million at the time of this report. Over the last five years this has grown from \$2.7 million invested to \$4.4 million. In 2021 we pulled \$500,000 out of the market to provide the cash to cover the planned operating deficit. Through the years our investments have provided the needed resources for us to carry out the ministry and program that is the work of the Pacific Southwest District Church of the Brethren.

2024 PSWD Operating Budget

In the spreadsheets that follow is the proposed 2024 District Operating Budget. The Policy Board is recommending a budget expense of \$477,521. This is an increase of \$18,000 from the 2023 District Operating Budget, and on target with the 2024 Operating Expense Maximum set at last year's District Conference.

Areas of increase are found in:

- Pastoral Leadership & Support (\$6000 additional) with additional funds for the retreat, training, and the Ministerial Ethics workshop (every five years).
- District Empowering Ministry (\$2000 additional) reflecting increased costs related to gathering various district committees and boards.
- District Operating Ministry (\$10,000 additional) reflecting salary increases for staff that follow the denominational COLA recommendations, and anticipated increases to health insurance.

The anticipated deficit for 2024 is \$324,721, in line with the actual deficits of 2022 and budgeted deficit for 2023. These are 8% higher than the optimal operating deficit of \$300,000 that the Board had articulated in 2016 and reaffirmed over the years.

2024 District Operating Budget Notes

Commitments

Ministry Partnership Funds - Key in this area are funds to support vital ministry in communities whose mission is with those who are on the economic margins. This is where the highest portion of this budget is expended. \$45,000 is marked for this work in 2024.

Ministry Training and Minister Support - Our work with providing training for those called into ministry continues to grow, and as some students finish their work other students are just beginning. It is a vital partnership - the district support of ministry training - that seeks to ensure we have strong pastoral leaders for the years to come.

Congregational Mission and Transition Support - The work of our District staff represented in the Operating Ministry portion of the budget plays key roles in helping congregations in connecting to resources, supporting Boards and pastors, and working with congregations in pastoral transitions or evaluating future steps in ministry. Funds here also support the training of our Spanish speaking pastoral leaders.

2024 Church Planting Support Budget

There are currently four active Church Plants in the district (Las Vegas, Los Banos, Pasadena, and Waterford). The budget for church planting in 2024 is \$89,250. These funds are used in a variety of ways depending on the needs of the various projects including church resourcing, utilities and facility cost assistance, and tax support.

The funds for this come from the proceeds of sales of former district properties (primarily New Harvest Lindsay and Koreatown).

Action Item: The Policy Board recommends to the District Conference the adoption of the 2024 Operating Budget and the 2024 Church Planting Support Budget as presented.

2025 Operating Expense Maximum

The recommendation for 2025 of \$495,000 is a \$17,000 increase over the 2024 budget. The Board will work hard to keep focused on priorities and to bring back a strong plan that prioritizes needs and works to be fiscally responsible.

Action Item: The Policy Board recommends to the District Conference that the expense maximum for the 2025 Operating Budget be \$495,000.

Pacific Southwest District Church of the Brethren Income & Expense Summary - Proposed 2024 Budget

		2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Proposed
Contributions Income	4100	37,496	29,527	26,317	23,875	34,400	32,300
Interest and Other Income	4200	81,290	89,690	91,905	64,923	88,850	108,100
Participation Income	4600	39,136	2,713	10,118	10,643	12,100	12,400
Total Operating Income		157,922	121,930	128,340	99,441	135,350	152,800
Congregational Development Ministry	5005	30,256	49,108	32,251	24,832	46,750	46,750
Pastoral Leadership & Support	5300	32,685	8,641	23,096	35,709	28,800	35,000
District Empowering Ministry	5500	68,871	19,366	10,802	21,128	34,250	36,200
Partnership & Property Ministry	5700	54,854	10,501	18,156	18,219	17,900	18,400
Service Ministries	6300	6,434	0	5,822	4,279	6,800	6,800
District Operating Ministry	6500	296,429	293,132	334,696	320,769	324,691	334,371
Total Operating Expenses		489,529	380,748	424,823	424,936	459,191	477,521
Operating Deficit		-331,607	-258,818	-296,483	-325,495	-323,841	-324,721

Budget

Exhibit C

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT OF THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN										
2017-2024, District Budget Overview										
Power Church Report Levels				PC	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
1	2	3	4	Line #	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
										2023
										Budget
										2024
										Proposed
				PARTNERSHIP & PROP. MIN	5700					
				DENOMINATIONAL ASSESSMENT	5710	1,494	1,369	1,342	1,430	1,280
				STANDING COMMITTEE	5720	2,316	2,923	2,304	306	306
				UNIVERSITY OF LA VERNE	5725	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
				ECUMENICAL COUNCILS	5730	300	500	0	250	250
				COUNCIL OF DIST EXECS	5740	779	450	405	385	360
				PROPERTY & LEGAL	5800	117,751	33,466	46,803	4,130	11,960
				Subtotal Partnership & Prop. Min	5700	126,640	42,708	54,854	10,501	18,156
				SERVICE MINISTRIES	6300					
				DISASTER RESPONSE	6310	3,265	5,167	5,137	0	5,822
				CHILDREN'S DISASTER SERV	6320	100	304	195	0	0
				Other Dist Service Opportunity	6350	0	0	1,102	0	0
				Subtotal Service Ministries	6300	3,365	5,471	6,434	0	5,822
				DIST. OPERATING MINISTRY	6500					
				OFFICE SPACE & UTILITIES	6520	28,860	16,338	16,956	17,357	20,907
				EQUIPMENT & MAINTENANCE	6600	5,834	5,238	0	650	6,038
				SUPPLIES/PRNTG/PUBLICAT'N	6650	6,436	4,760	5,324	4,937	5,188
				POSTAGE AND MAILING	6670	1,618	1,616	1,804	1,703	1,084
				INSURANCE	6680	13,309	13,843	14,205	15,750	16,280
				AUDIT AND PROF. FEES	6700	17,465	20,735	17,678	26,039	41,925
				STAFF SALARIES	7000	163,100	171,704	169,594	180,016	185,043
				STAFF BENEFITS & RCWF	7100	26,032	27,269	28,955	32,643	31,846
				STAFF TRVL-PROF GROWTH	7500	25,161	33,796	38,301	11,178	24,653
				NEW LIFE/PUB ETC & Misc.	7750	2,984	1,581	3,613	2,859	1,732
				Subtotal Dist. Operating Ministry	6500	290,799	296,880	296,429	293,132	334,696
				Subtotal Ministry Investments	5001	597,444	476,535	490,530	380,747	424,823
				TOTAL EXPENSES		597,444	476,535	490,530	380,747	424,823
				EXCESS INCOME\EXPENSES		(447,008)	(317,546)	(332,608)	(258,817)	(296,483)

Action to Disorganize the Iglesia de Cristo Sion Church of the Brethren
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The Cristo Sion congregation has been a part of the District since 2008. They were recognized as a congregation at the 2016 District Conference. Originally the church met for worship in the Pomona Fellowship church building. When that facility was sold in 2020, the congregation was invited to continue in ministry at the Glendora congregation's facility. Early in 2023 the shared facility use was no longer working satisfactorily and Cristo Sion needed to find a new base for ministry. The group had an offer to come into the facility of a Mennonite congregation in Upland and merge the Cristo Sion group into a new Spanish language ministry of this church. The district and the pastors talked during this time and Cristo Sion's leadership chose to leave the Church of the Brethren. For all involved in the conversations it has been sad to see the Flores' and this congregation leave. We wish them peace and joy as they make this move. ¡Que Dios bendiga su ministerio! (May God bless their ministry!)

Action Item to District Conference: **The Policy Board recommends to the District Conference that the Iglesia Cristo Sion congregation be disorganized, with regret.**

Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren

Locations / Dates / Moderators of District Conferences

1964.	La Verne.	August 28-30.	R. Truman Northup
1965.	Modesto.	October 15-17.	Marvin Belcher
1966.	Forest Home.	October 14-16.	Leland A. Nelson
1967.	Fresno.	October 13-15.	Lowell K. Brubaker
1968.	Long Beach.	October 11-13.	R. Truman Northup
1969.	Bakersfield.	October 10-12.	Edward K. Ziegler
1970.	Phoenix First.	October 9-11.	Jerry Davis
1971.	Modesto.	October 15-17.	Harold D. Fasnacht
1972.	La Verne.	October 13-15.	Duane Wyles
1973.	Fresno.	October 11-13.	Paul E. Miller
1974.	Pasadena.	October 11-13.	John W. Hunter
1975.	Empire.	October 10-12.	Ida S. Howell
1976.	Long Beach.	October 15-17.	Marvin A. Belcher
1977.	McFarland.	October 7-9.	D. Eugene Lichty
1978.	University of La Verne.	October 13-15.	Norman N. Glick
1979.	Modesto.	November 9-11.	Arthur M. Baldwin
1980.	Phoenix First.	October 24-26.	LaVon Rupel
1981.	Fresno.	October 16-18.	C. Wayne Zunkel
1982.	Pomona Fellowship.	October 15-17.	Barbara Enberg
1983.	Empire.	October 14-16.	Irven Stern
1984.	South Bay.	November 9-11.	Galen Snell
1985.	McFarland.	November 8-10.	Dwayne Brubaker
1986.	Imperial Heights.	October 17-19.	Robert E. Keim
1987.	Prince of Peace, Sacramento.	October 16-18.	Jerry Davis
1988.	Long Beach.	October 7-9.	W. Donald Clague
1989.	Modesto.	November 3-5.	Richard L. Landrum
1990.	Phoenix First.	October 12-14.	Sherlo Shively
1991.	Glendale (CA).	October 11-13.	Harold J. Forney
1992.	Waterford.	November 13-15.	Donald E. Fancher
1993.	La Verne.	October 8-10.	Myrna L. Wheeler
1994.	Fresno.	November 11-13.	Pat Royer
1995.	County of San Diego.	October 6-8.	Lowell Brubaker
1996.	Modesto.	October 11-13.	Milton H. Ewert
1997.	Pomona Fellowship.	October 10-12.	Peggy Redman
1998.	South Bay / Imperial Heights.	September 18-20.	Jerry Davis
1999.	Phoenix First.	October 8-10.	Karen Walters
2000.	Sacramento / Live Oak.	October 13-15.	Belita Mitchell
2001.	Bakersfield.	October 5-7.	Sherlo Shively
2002.	La Verne.	October 4-6.	George Sparks
2003.	Community Brethren, Fresno.	September 19-21.	Bill Wagoner, Honorary; Myrna Wheeler, Acting
2004.	Pomona.	October 29-31.	David Hurlbut
2005.	Modesto.	October 7-9.	R. Jan Thompson
2006.	Papago Buttes.	October 27-29.	Joe Schechter
2007.	La Verne.	October 12-14.	Mary Kay Ogden
2008.	Community Brethren, Fresno.	November 7-9.	John Price
2009.	Sacramento.	November 6-8.	Jim Martinez
2010.	Hillcrest, La Verne.	November 12-14.	Felton Daniels
2011.	Hillcrest, La Verne.	November 11-13.	Karen Walters
2012.	Hillcrest, La Verne.	November 9-11.	Jack Storne
2013.	Scottsdale, AZ.	November 8-10.	Jim LeFever
2014.	Hillcrest, La Verne.	November 7-9.	Erin Matteson
2015.	Hillcrest, La Verne.	November 13-15.	Eric Bishop
2016.	Modesto.	November 11-13.	John Price
2017.	Hillcrest, La Verne.	November 10-12.	Sara Haldeman-Scarr
2018.	Hillcrest, La Verne.	November 9-11.	Karen Pierson
2019.	Scottsdale, AZ.	November 8-10.	Bob Morris
2020.	Virtual on the web.	November 9-15.	Mary Kay Ogden
2021.	Virtual on the web.	November 7-14.	Al Clark
2022.	University of La Verne.	November 11-12.	Cheryl Crane
2023.	University of La Verne.	November 10-11.	Judy Minnich Stout
2024.	Prince of Peace, Sacramento.	November 8-9.	Paul Lovelace

Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren

PSWD Board of Administration Chairs District Executive Ministers

	Board Chair	Executive Minister
1964 – 1965.	Jacob T. Dick.	Glen H. Bowlby
1966 – 1967.	Arthur M. Baldwin.	Glen H. Bowlby
1968.	Herbert W. Hogan.	Glen H. Bowlby
1969 – 1971.	Herbert W. Hogan.	R. Truman Northup
1972 – 1973.	Forrest V. Groff.	R. Truman Northup
1974 – 1977.	J. Calvin Keeling.	R. Truman Northup
1978 – 1981.	W. Donald Clague.	R. Truman Northup
1982 – 1983.	S. Loren Bowman.	R. Truman Northup
1984 – 1985.	Marlin Heckman.	Irven & Pattie Stern
1986 – 1989.	James Walters.	Irven & Pattie Stern
1990.	Janice Fralin.	Irven & Pattie Stern
1991.	Roger Richer.	Irven & Pattie Stern
1992.	Todd Hammond.	Irven & Pattie Stern
1993.	Gregg Moser.	Irven & Pattie Stern
1994.	R. Jan Thompson.	Glenn Stanford (<i>interim</i>)
1995.	R. Jan Thompson.	Gene Hipskind
1996.	Tom Bryant.	Gene Hipskind
1997 – 1999.	Jonathan Shively.	Gene Hipskind
2000 – 2001.	Ernest Snyder.	Gene Hipskind
2002.	Sara Haldeman-Scarr.	Gene Hipskind
		Richard Hart (<i>interim</i>)
2003.	Sara Haldeman-Scarr.	Richard Hart (<i>interim</i>)
		Dean Kieffaber (<i>interim</i>)
		Bryan Boyer
2004 – 2006.	Paul Lovelace.	Bryan Boyer
2007.	Jim Davis.	Bryan Boyer
2008.	Bill Johnson.	Bryan Boyer
		Richard Hart (<i>interim</i>)
		Mary Kay Ogden (<i>interim</i>)
		Randy Yoder (<i>interim</i>)
		Don Booz (<i>December</i>)
2009.	Myrna Wheeler (<i>through July</i>).	Don Booz
	Thomas Dowdy (<i>began in August</i>).	Don Booz
2010.	Thomas Dowdy (<i>through January 9</i>).	Don Booz
	Don Fancher (<i>began January 9</i>).	Don Booz
2011 – 2013.	Don Fancher.	Don Booz
2014.	Marye Martinez.	Joe Detrick (<i>interim</i>)
2015 – 2016.	Marye Martinez.	Russ Matteson
2017 – 2021.	Nelda Rhoades Clarke.	Russ Matteson
2022 – 2023.	Erik Brummett.	Russ Matteson

Map for Pacific Southwest District Conference at the University of La Verne



The portion of the University Campus that we will be using is closest to Arrow Highway and D Street in La Verne. The intersection of those streets is at the bottom of the map above. Bonita Street runs parallel to Arrow Highway on the opposite side of campus and C Street will allow you to access the Abraham Campus Center from Bonita.